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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 23 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD, CAPPELLETTI, COMITTA, FONTANA,  
SANTARSIERO, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA AND KEARNEY, JANUARY 31, 2023

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 31, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of February 1 through 7, 2023, as "Gun  
2 Violence Survivors Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Gun violence, whether intentional or unintentional,  
4 involves the use of a firearm to commit violent acts, such as  
5 armed robbery, aggravated assault, suicide, homicide, domestic  
6 violence and mass shootings; and

7 WHEREAS, A gun violence survivor is anyone who has personally  
8 experienced gun violence, whether having been threatened or  
9 wounded with a gun or having witnessed an act of gun violence,  
10 or a family member or friend of someone who was wounded or  
11 killed as a result of gun violence; and

12 WHEREAS, For every person who dies from gun violence, two  
13 more survive; and

14 WHEREAS, Nine out of ten gun violence survivors report  
15 experiencing trauma from the incident; and

16 WHEREAS, Among those persons who experienced gun violence  
17 within the last 12 months, more than half indicated the  
18 resulting trauma affected their well-being and ability to

1 function; and

2 WHEREAS, Half of survivors reported that they experienced gun  
3 violence in a home, whether their own or that of a neighbor,  
4 friend or family member; and

5 WHEREAS, Nurses, doctors and medical or hospital staff were  
6 the most likely to say they experienced the impact of gun  
7 violence through their work, followed by school employees, such  
8 as teachers and staff; and

9 WHEREAS, Two-thirds of survivors are in need of mental health  
10 services, therapy and support; and

11 WHEREAS, Forty-nine percent of survivors require crime victim  
12 legal assistance; and

13 WHEREAS, For 40% of survivors, financial assistance is  
14 necessary to deal with medical expenses, such as physical  
15 therapy, rehabilitation services and surgical equipment; and

16 WHEREAS, Home health care is needed for one in four  
17 survivors; and

18 WHEREAS, Seven percent of survivors need assistance to cover  
19 funeral-related expenses; and

20 WHEREAS, Fifty-eight percent of American adults have been  
21 impacted by gun violence in their lifetime; and

22 WHEREAS, Three million children are affected by gun violence  
23 every year; and

24 WHEREAS, Currently, more than 1 million women living in the  
25 United States have been shot or shot at by their significant  
26 others; and

27 WHEREAS, Nearly 3.7 million women in the United States have  
28 been threatened with a gun by their significant other; and

29 WHEREAS, In an average year, 1,574 families and communities  
30 are affected by gun violence and the pain, fear and trauma

1 associated with it; and

2 WHEREAS, Gun violence rose 23% in Pennsylvania in the last 10  
3 years; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2021 alone, the City of Philadelphia gained 1,846  
5 new gun violence survivors and their families, of which 1,329  
6 survivors were between 18 and 39 years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, In addition to the devastating human cost, every  
8 year gun violence costs the Pennsylvania economy \$567 million;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Every Murder Is Real Healing Center in  
11 Philadelphia provides holistic support, including grief support  
12 groups, assistance with paperwork and court advocacy for family  
13 members and friends left in the wake of gun violence; and

14 WHEREAS, Moms Demand Action is a national network of parents,  
15 families, students and concerned citizens dedicated to keeping  
16 families safe, encouraging responsible gun ownership and  
17 advocating for common-sense gun safety legislation; and

18 WHEREAS, Moms Demand Action, along with Mayors Against  
19 Illegal Guns, Students Demand Action and the Everytown Survivor  
20 Network, is part of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun  
21 violence prevention organization in the country, with nearly 6  
22 million supporters and 350,000 donors; and

23 WHEREAS, Everytown for Gun Safety is joined by several other  
24 national nonprofit organizations, including the Brady Campaign  
25 and Giffords Law Center, in the pursuit to end gun violence in  
26 America; and

27 WHEREAS, A gun violence survivor described their trauma as  
28 follows: "Dealing with the inconsistencies of healing, both  
29 physically and emotionally. The existence of being this gray  
30 person in a world where everyone else sees everything as black

1 and white. I'm either completely fine and it's over and done, or  
2 I'm this wounded person who can never be functional - the lack  
3 of understanding that I am not really either, but some days may  
4 be one or the other"; and

5 WHEREAS, "Gun Violence Survivors Week" is an acknowledgment  
6 of the pain and suffering felt by survivors of gun violence who  
7 continue to live with that trauma; and

8 WHEREAS, By recognizing "Gun Violence Survivors Week," the  
9 Commonwealth joins communities across America to raise awareness  
10 of its broad impact on society and express empathy to those who  
11 have endured pain as a result of a firearm; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the week of February 1  
13 through 7, 2023, as "Gun Violence Survivors Week" in  
14 Pennsylvania; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize Moms Demand Action and  
16 other gun violence prevention organizations for their efforts in  
17 addressing gun violence and in the pursuit of building safer  
18 communities for the residents of this Commonwealth and citizens  
19 of this country.