
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 236 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD, CAPPELLETTI, HUGHES, KEARNEY, FONTANA,
SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, KANE, SANTARSIERO AND STREET,
FEBRUARY 12, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of January 22 through 26, 2024, 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, more
13 than two 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

1 resulting trauma affected their well-being and ability to
2 function; and

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

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Nearly half of survivors require crime victim legal
13 assistance; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, In an average year, 1,574 families and communities

1 are affected by gun violence and the pain, fear and trauma
2 associated with it; and

3 WHEREAS, Gun violence rose more than 20% in Pennsylvania in
4 the last 10 years; and

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

8 WHEREAS, The Every Murder Is Real (EMIR) Healing Center in
9 Philadelphia provides a holistic and trauma-informed approach to
10 healing for those left in the wake of gun violence; and

11 WHEREAS, EMIR provides many services to support and assist
12 families and communities, including individual and group grief
13 support, assistance with victim compensation and education and
14 navigation through the criminal justice system; and

15 WHEREAS, Mothers In Charge is a group of impassioned mothers,
16 grandmothers, aunts, sisters and others who are committed to
17 working toward saving lives through providing counseling and
18 grief support services for families who have been impacted by
19 gun violence; and

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

24 WHEREAS, Moms Demand Action, along with Mayors Against
25 Illegal Guns, Students Demand Action and the Everytown Survivor
26 Network, is part of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun
27 violence prevention organization in the country, with nearly 10
28 million supporters and more than 350,000 donors; and

29 WHEREAS, Everytown for Gun Safety is joined by several other
30 national nonprofit organizations, including the Brady Campaign

1 and Giffords Law Center, in the pursuit to end gun violence in
2 America; and

3 WHEREAS, A gun violence survivor described the personal
4 trauma as follows: "Dealing with the inconsistencies of healing,
5 both physically and emotionally. The existence of being this
6 gray person in a world where everyone else sees everything as
7 black and white. I'm either completely fine and it's over and
8 done, or I'm this wounded person who can never be functional -
9 the lack of understanding that I am not really either, but some
10 days may be one or the other"; and

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the week of January 22
19 through 26, 2024, as "Gun Violence Survivors Week" in
20 Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize EMIR, Mothers In Charge,
22 Moms Demand Action and other gun violence prevention
23 organizations for their efforts in addressing gun violence and
24 in the pursuit of building safer communities for the residents
25 of this Commonwealth and citizens of this country.