
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 65 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY ISAACSON, BRENNAN, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, CIRESI,
FREEMAN, GIRAL, GREEN, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN,
HOWARD, KENYATTA, KHAN, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG AND STEELE,
FEBRUARY 10, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY,
FEBRUARY 10, 2025

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a task force to study social media platforms and
2 websites on which suicide is encouraged.

3 WHEREAS, Every suicide is an avoidable tragedy; and

4 WHEREAS, Suicide rates have risen in the United States over

5 the past 20 years, from 10.4 deaths per 100,000, with a total of

6 29,350 deaths, in 2000, to 13.5 deaths per 100,000, with 45,979

7 deaths, in 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, Suicide rates have risen amongst nearly every age

9 group, but especially for youths and young adults ages 10 to 24,

10 with a 52.2% increase between 2000 and 2021; and

11 WHEREAS, Over the past several years, web forums have been

12 established where individuals discuss and encourage suicide; and

13 WHEREAS, These websites can be easily accessed through online

14 search engines; and

15 WHEREAS, Forty-five individuals have been confirmed to have

16 killed themselves after accessing one particular suicide forum;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, One of these suicide victims was a Pennsylvania
3 resident; and

4 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives has an interest in
5 preventing suicide through policy in order to promote the health
6 and well-being of Pennsylvanians; and

7 WHEREAS, It is important that websites on which suicide is
8 encouraged are studied to determine what actions the
9 Commonwealth can take to prevent suicides stemming from these
10 websites; and

11 WHEREAS, There are a series of complications in regulating
12 websites on which suicide is encouraged, including:

13 (1) freedom of expression concerns, as several state
14 courts have found that encouraging others to commit suicide
15 is protected speech under the First Amendment; and

16 (2) the server for such websites moving frequently among
17 various jurisdictions to avoid government interference;

18 and

19 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives desires advice on
20 legislation from a wide range of sources on how to regulate
21 social media platforms and websites on which suicide is
22 encouraged; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives establish a task
24 force to study social media platforms and websites on which
25 suicide is encouraged; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the task force be comprised of the following
27 members:

28 (1) the Attorney General, as chair of the task force;

29 (2) the Secretary of Health, or a designee;

30 (3) the Secretary of Human Services, or a designee;

1 (4) the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
2 Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, or their
3 designees;

4 (5) the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
5 Health Committee of the House of Representatives, or their
6 designees;

7 (6) the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
8 Human Services Committee of the House of Representatives, or
9 their designees;

10 (7) two clinical psychologists with experience working
11 with suicidal patients, appointed by the Governor;

12 (8) two experts in cyberbullying, appointed by the
13 Governor; and

14 (9) two suicide prevention advocates, appointed by the
15 Governor;

16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the task force issue a report within two years
18 of the adoption of this resolution with recommendations for
19 legislative and executive actions to prevent individuals from
20 committing suicide after visiting online forums on which suicide
21 is encouraged.