

## Senate Resolution 262

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Unterman of the 45th, Carter of the 42nd, Goggans of the 7th, Cowsert of the 46th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Will to Live Foundation; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Will to Live Foundation was created to work with teenagers and young  
3 adults to help promote teen suicide prevention through fundraisers and kid centered activities  
4 that raise money for teen suicide prevention, education, and counseling centers in Georgia  
5 communities; and

6 WHEREAS, the Will to Live Foundation was established by the Trautwein family on  
7 October 15, 2010, to honor the life and legacy of Richard Williams "Will" Trautwein, who  
8 was 15 when he took his life; and

9 WHEREAS, through the Trautwein's loss and pain, the family found courage and strength  
10 and were determined to spread awareness of teen suicide and get young people involved in  
11 the fight against suicide; and

12 WHEREAS, with the motto "For the kids, Through the kids, By the kids," the Will to Live  
13 Foundation is unique because instead of adults talking to kids about suicide education, kids  
14 talk to other kids about preventing suicide and young adults help plan and coordinate all the  
15 foundation's activities and fundraisers; and

16 WHEREAS, the most effective way to ensure that young adults get the message that suicide  
17 is not the answer is to hear from their peers and friends who are experiencing the same  
18 stresses and pressures; and

19 WHEREAS, having "life teammates," people in your life you can call upon in times of  
20 trouble and happiness who know you will always be there for them as well, helps teens cope  
21 with problems and be confident that they will always have someone to whom to turn; and

22 WHEREAS, when teens know they are not alone in their lives they are more likely to express  
23 their fears, doubts, and thoughts to others, helping to decrease the incidents of suicide in  
24 young adults; and

25 WHEREAS, working closely with suicide prevention experts, the foundation strives to be  
26 a resource for kids and their families and to educate these young adults on the professional  
27 services and counseling organizations that are available to them in times of need and to help  
28 families learn more about the epidemic of teen suicide and to help them understand what to  
29 look for and what to do when a friend has communicated to them that the friend is struggling,  
30 in need of help, or having suicidal thoughts; and

31 WHEREAS, on February 12, 2011, over 1,500 people gathered in Johns Creek, Georgia, to  
32 partake or watch in the first ever Where There's A WILL, There's A Way 5K, with over  
33 1,350 people running for Will and other friends and family members who have fallen victim  
34 to suicide.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
36 commend the Trautwein family for their courage and strength, and recognize the Will to Live  
37 Foundation for its dedication to preventing teen suicide.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Trautwein family.