

Senate Resolution 760

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Suicide Prevention Action Network of Georgia, Inc. (SPAN-GA); and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 2011, suicide claimed the lives of over 1,100 Georgia citizens and touched  
4 the lives of countless others including the families and loved ones left behind. Suicide is the  
5 tenth leading cause of death in Georgia and third for those 15-24 years of age. More  
6 Georgians die by suicide than by homicide; and

7 WHEREAS, most deaths by suicide are preventable by a multifaceted approach including  
8 developing and implementing campaigns designed to increase all Georgians' knowledge of  
9 suicide prevention and an understanding of the role of risk and protective factors. Building  
10 awareness of the public health problem presented by suicide and the resources available to  
11 reduce its impact is an essential step in this ongoing effort; and

12 WHEREAS, the most effective way to prevent a public health problem like suicide is for  
13 people of every walk of life, every faith, every ethnic background, and every age group to  
14 work together. A successful prevention plan must include more than just mental health  
15 professionals. Suicide is everyone's problem; and

16 WHEREAS, the Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan adopted June 30, 2001, provides a  
17 framework for every Georgian to become involved in preventing suicide; and

18 WHEREAS, the collaboration among government agencies and among public and private  
19 partners should be encouraged and supported. The implementation of the Plan is supported  
20 by many notable Georgia organizations, governmental agencies, and individuals; and

21 WHEREAS, Suicide Prevention Action Network of Georgia, Inc. (SPAN-GA), was  
22 incorporated in 2002 to bring suicide prevention efforts to communities in Georgia, to give

23 a voice to those who have been touched by suicide, and to turn Georgia's Suicide Prevention  
24 Plan into action; and

25 WHEREAS, SPAN-GA has created suicide prevention coalitions throughout the State of  
26 Georgia, providing training for Survivors of Suicide support group facilitators, sponsored  
27 Camp SOS for families recently impacted by suicide, partnered with the National Alliance  
28 for Mental Illness to provide suicide prevention and awareness training to Georgia law  
29 school enforcement officers, created and maintain the Georgia Suicide Prevention  
30 Information Network (GSPIN) website, identified and submitted a recommendation for a  
31 youth suicide prevention model, and engaged in numerous other education and awareness  
32 efforts throughout the state.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
34 commend Suicide Prevention Action Network of Georgia, Inc., for its efforts in preventing  
35 suicide in Georgia.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
37 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Suicide Prevention Action Network of  
38 Georgia, Inc.