WHEREAS, bullying is a multi-faceted, widespread public health problem and must be approached with systemic and consistent efforts; the harmful effects of bullying are frequently felt by others, including friends and families, and can hurt the overall health and safety of schools, neighborhoods and society; and

WHEREAS, the Highmark Foundation, along with its partners, Windber Research Institute and the Center for Safe Schools, are hosting “Huddle Up Against Bullying” on Tuesday, October 28, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Highmark Foundation offers a strategic approach to bullying prevention and has supported prevention efforts and activities in schools, community-based organizations, and other charitable organizations with more than $20 million in grants and contracts; and

WHEREAS, “Huddle Up Against Bullying” notes the progress made in bullying prevention efforts over the past decade and discusses new avenues for helping schools, students, families, communities, and healthcare professionals; attendees will gain renewed motivation and concrete ideas that will help propel them as professional and their various programs in bullying prevention; and

WHEREAS, every seven minutes, a child is bullied in the United States and approximately 160,000 children in the United States miss school every day for fear of being bullied; Allegheny County is thankful to the Highmark Foundation and the many organizations in our region that work to promote understanding and prevent bullying in our schools and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim October 28, 2014 as “Huddle Up Against Bullying Day” in Allegheny County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 28th day of October, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald