



# The Glendon Association

a 501(c)(3) California nonprofit corporation

*Our mission is to save lives and help people create more meaningful lives by addressing the social problems of suicide, child abuse, violence, and troubled interpersonal relationships.*

**JAMIE ROTNOFSKY, PhD**  
Executive Director

**LISA FIRESTONE, PhD**  
Director of Research  
& Education

**JOYCE CATLETT, MA**  
Author, Video Co-Producer  
& Lecturer

**JINA CARVALHO**  
Director of Marketing  
& Communications

**GEOFFREY PARR**  
Director of Video Production

**MAUREEN SULLIVAN**  
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& Administration

**JONI KELLY**  
Marketing & Community  
Outreach

**VICTORIA KNOWLES**  
Conference Coordinator

**KRISTEN DAHLIN**  
Research Associate

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July 16, 2007

Mr. Ryan Thurston  
F.R.I.E.N.D.S.  
701 North 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #300  
Seattle, WA 98103

Subject: LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Thurston:

We are writing to express that our organization, The Glendon Association's Violence & Suicide Prevention Alliance strongly supports your efforts to establish a suicide barrier on the Aurora Bridge in Seattle, Washington and thereby make your community a safer one.

The Glendon Association is an international not-for-profit company whose mission is to save lives and help people create more meaningful lives by addressing the social problems of suicide, child abuse, violence, and troubled interpersonal relationships through research, education, and community outreach.

Our organization fully agrees with the mission and goals of F.R.I.E.N.D.S., a grassroots effort dedicated to reducing suicides from the bridge. We also support the Washington State Department of Transportation "Aurora Bridge Suicide Prevention Project".

It is our belief, which is based in statistical data from other locations and years of research on this subject, that a suicide barrier will:

- immediately stop suicides from occurring from the Aurora Bridge
- reduce the overall suicide rate in the Seattle area
- save lives and sends the message that yours is a community that cares

Our organization is in a unique position to offer our support. In our own community of Santa Barbara, we are two years into the process of building a suicide barrier on the Cold Spring Arch Bridge. Thanks to the collaborative effort of the multi-agency committee which includes mental health organizations, politicians, Caltrans, County transportation departments, and media representatives, we have secured a one million dollar budget through the State of CA's DOT safety corridor.

*Please continue*

5383 Hollister Ave, Suite 270 • Santa Barbara, California 93111

Phone: 805-681-0415 • Fax: 805-681-0425 • email: [TheGlendonAssociation@glendon.org](mailto:TheGlendonAssociation@glendon.org) • website: [www.glendon.org](http://www.glendon.org)



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As with the Aurora Bridge Suicide Prevention Project, our committee was formed after the tragic death by suicide of a 17 year old San Marco High School Student. He was an excellent student and the star of his basketball and volleyball teams. His death was just one of many, but it represents our hope that his is the last death to occur from this location. July 15<sup>th</sup> marks the two year anniversary of his death, and our project has been given the highest designation so that our team can build the suicide barrier as quickly as possible.

The Glendon Association stands by our Seattle F.R.I.E.N.D.S. and are more than willing to share our findings, experience, and success story with anyone on the committee who wants to know more. Dr. Lisa Firestone, a suicidologist, and Director of Research & Education would like to offer her services to you and will do a presentation to your committee and for your community at your convenience.

We believe that with appropriate funding and enough community support, you too can resolve this sad situation, and remove the designation of Aurora Bridge as the “second most deadly bridge in the U.S.”. By building a suicide barrier, you provide restriction of means, and thereby end suicides. You too can make Seattle a safer place; be a community that cares.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, or for further information.

Sincerely,

Jamie Rotnofsky, PhD  
Executive Director

Lisa Firestone, PhD  
Director of Research & Education

Joni Kelly  
Manager of Marketing & Community Outreach

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