
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 488 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, WASHINGTON, FERLO, GREENLEAF, TEPLITZ,
STACK, ERICKSON, KASUNIC, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, BREWSTER,
VULAKOVICH, SCHWANK, PILEGGI, TARTAGLIONE, WOZNIAK, KITCHEN,
McILHINNEY, RAFFERTY, SMITH, COSTA, SOLOBAY, ALLOWAY, HUGHES
AND BAKER, OCTOBER 15, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 15, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 19 through 26, 2014, as
2 "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Homeless Children's Awareness Week will bring
4 attention to the growing problems and issues children
5 experiencing homelessness face throughout this Commonwealth and
6 across the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Housing
8 and Urban Development, children comprised nearly one-quarter of
9 the total 610,000 Americans who were homeless on any given day
10 in 2013; and

11 WHEREAS, The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states
12 that children are homeless if they lack a fixed, regular and
13 adequate nighttime residence; and

14 WHEREAS, Homelessness negatively impacts children's physical
15 health, emotional and behavioral development and academic
16 success; and

WHEREAS, Children are the fastest-growing segment of the
homeless population; and

WHEREAS, During the 2013-2014 school year, more than 19,000
school age children and youth were reported as experiencing
homelessness, which made up about 1% of the total Pennsylvania
public school enrollment population for that year; and

WHEREAS, Youth experiencing homelessness face several
obstacles, including frequent moves which disrupt their
education, making them twice as likely to repeat a grade; and

WHEREAS, The National Coalition for the Homeless cites
studies that show youth experiencing homelessness are set back
academically three to six months; and

WHEREAS, The national school dropout rate for children facing
homelessness is 60% higher than for a child who does not have
that experience during the school year; and

WHEREAS, For more than 15 years, the Homeless Children's
Education Fund has been working to increase educational
opportunities for children and youth experiencing homelessness
in Allegheny County in an effort to combat such statistics; and

WHEREAS, Many events will take place during Homeless
Children's Awareness Week in Pittsburgh, including an intimate
storytelling event, a performance art installation and a 5k and
10k run/walk to raise awareness about children experiencing
homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Individuals and groups across this Commonwealth are
encouraged to create their own events during Homeless Children's
Awareness Week to raise awareness about the needs and challenges
of children and youth experiencing homelessness in this
Commonwealth; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of October 19

1 through 26, 2014, as "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in
2 Pennsylvania.