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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 247 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, ALLOWAY, FONTANA, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN,  
LEACH, SABATINA, AUMENT, BAKER, GREENLEAF, KILLION AND  
MARTIN, NOVEMBER 15, 2017

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, NOVEMBER 15, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2017 as "Food Pantry Donation  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Many residents of this Commonwealth are in a  
4 continuous struggle to provide food for themselves and their  
5 families, and this struggle, also known as food insecurity, can  
6 result in hunger, malnutrition and, in some cases, starvation;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Since the overall health of a person is dependent  
9 upon a proper diet, hunger and malnutrition can lead to physical  
10 and cognitive impairments in children and create a host of  
11 health-related problems in adults; and

12 WHEREAS, The establishment of a network of community-based  
13 food banks and food pantries can reduce the prevalence of food  
14 insecurity and offset the adverse effects of hunger and  
15 malnourishment; and

16 WHEREAS, Food banks and food pantries, while laudably  
17 attempting to reduce that figure, still fall short in providing

1 adequate food supplies to hungry residents of this Commonwealth;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Charitable food organizations, including food banks  
4 and food pantries, have responded to food insecurity in this  
5 Commonwealth by accepting food donations and providing hot  
6 meals, groceries and information on government assistance  
7 programs to at-risk adults and families; and

8 WHEREAS, A greater public awareness of food insecurity and  
9 the impact food insecurity has on the residents of this  
10 Commonwealth is essential to encourage donations to local food  
11 banks and pantries in this Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, Nearly 25 years ago, the General Assembly amended  
13 the Judicial Code to provide for reduced liability for damages  
14 from donated food and grocery products; and

15 WHEREAS, This "Good Samaritan" provision, under 42 Pa.C.S. §  
16 8338, allows for restaurants, grocery stores and other entities  
17 that produce and sell food to donate their excess to food banks  
18 and, unless negligence or willful provision of expired food can  
19 be proven, to be held free of liability in a civil lawsuit if a  
20 person should unfortunately become ill from the donated food;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Because of the excess of consumable food being  
23 disposed while our friends and neighbors starve, it is necessary  
24 to draw attention to this provision in the Judicial Code and  
25 encourage businesses such as restaurants to take advantage of  
26 "Good Samaritan" provisions to reduce their food waste and help  
27 feed our communities; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of November  
29 2017 as "Food Pantry Donation Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
30 further

1       RESOLVED, That restaurants and grocery stores consider  
2 donating excess food and grocery products to charitable food  
3 organizations, including food banks and food pantries.