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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 363 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY BAKER, BROWNE, IOVINO, FARNESE, MARTIN,  
BARTOLOTTA, MENSCH, J. WARD, FONTANA AND PHILLIPS-HILL,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2020 as "Hunger Action Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, September 2020 has been designated as "Hunger Action  
4 Month" to provide a unified opportunity for communities in the  
5 United States to focus attention on the persistent problem of  
6 domestic hunger and to mobilize and create a movement to help  
7 end hunger in America; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture gathers  
9 information and provides statistics related to domestic hunger;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap 2018  
12 Report, Pennsylvania's food security rate was 10.9%, meaning 1.5  
13 million Pennsylvanians struggle to put food on the table or live  
14 in a household where food is scarce; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's food insecurity rate is projected to  
16 increase to 15.9%, meaning more than 2 million Pennsylvanians  
17 will face food insecurity as a result of temporary unemployment

1 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

2 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvania households experience hunger, and  
3 some people in these households frequently skip meals or eat too  
4 little, sometimes going without food for a whole day; and

5 WHEREAS, In a typical year, Feeding Pennsylvania food banks  
6 serve nearly 2 million people annually, including nearly 630,000  
7 children who do not know where their next meal is coming from;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Due to the alarming increase in need throughout the  
10 pandemic, the members of Feeding Pennsylvania served more than  
11 5.5 million people in just three months through its network of  
12 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other community  
13 organizations; and

14 WHEREAS, The costs of other essentials, such as home heating,  
15 housing and medical care, have increased significantly, and for  
16 families caught in the squeeze between declining wages and  
17 rising costs, the food budget becomes a frequent pressure point;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Utilization of emergency food assistance becomes a  
20 way for these individuals and families to keep food on the table  
21 while still paying the bills; and

22 WHEREAS, Individuals, charities, businesses and the  
23 government all have a role to play in getting food to those in  
24 need; and

25 WHEREAS, Food banks, food rescue organizations, soup  
26 kitchens, food pantries, faith-based organizations, businesses  
27 and individuals are donating time, raising funds and giving food  
28 to help their neighbors; and

29 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians benefiting from the nutrition  
30 assistance programs and services range from infants and toddlers

1 to school-age children and adolescents, single parents, two-  
2 parent families, veterans and their families, people with  
3 disabilities and seniors; therefore be it

4       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of September  
5 2020 as "Hunger Action Month" in Pennsylvania.