
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 501 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, WARD, COSTA, DINNIMAN, ERICKSON,
FONTANA, GREENLEAF, KASUNIC, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, SMITH, STACK,
TARTAGLIONE, WASHINGTON AND WHITE, OCTOBER 15, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 15, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 20 through 24, 2014, as
2 "Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative Programs Week" in
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has begun to reserve the use of secure
5 detention for only high-risk youth offenders and is using
6 alternative programming for moderate and low-risk offenders in
7 order to improve outcomes for youth and ensure the protection of
8 the community; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's 15 secure detention centers and the
10 numerous alternative programs serving all 67 counties should be
11 recognized for their ongoing protection of our communities and
12 the service to youth in their custody or care; and

13 WHEREAS, Secure detention facilities provide 726 beds
14 Statewide for approximately 15,000 admissions to juvenile
15 detention in this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, The existence of these facilities and programs
17 provides a key service to ensure community and individual
18 protection; and

1 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's juvenile detention centers and
2 alternative programs, adhering to the balanced and restorative
3 justice model, contribute to public safety by providing a stable
4 environment for at-risk youth, both preadjudicated and
5 adjudicated, providing education and programming and ensuring
6 sufficient opportunities for growth and development of
7 Pennsylvania's youth; and

8 WHEREAS, Through the continuing efforts of the juvenile
9 courts of this Commonwealth, juvenile detention is utilized only
10 when lesser restrictive environments are not in the best
11 interest of the youth or community; and

12 WHEREAS, Juvenile detention centers and alternative programs
13 ensure every child's health and well-being by providing
14 competency development, self-discipline and stabilization
15 through comprehensive evaluations, both physical and behavioral
16 health, as well as community involvement; and

17 WHEREAS, Hundreds of men and women are dedicated to ensuring
18 the proper care and supervision of youth and are committed to
19 the protection of communities in this Commonwealth on a daily
20 basis; and

21 WHEREAS, Youth care workers in this Commonwealth's detention
22 facilities and alternative programs stand ready on a daily basis
23 to respond to youth who display an array of unresolved mental
24 health, behavioral, educational and emotional issues; and

25 WHEREAS, The Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative
26 Programs is an association that acts as a primary resource for
27 these facilities offering education, representation and support
28 for all of the important services that juvenile detention
29 centers and alternative programs provide for this Commonwealth's
30 youth and communities; and

1 WHEREAS, Juvenile detention centers and alternative programs
2 in this Commonwealth, in coordination with the Juvenile
3 Detention Centers and Alternative Programs, merit one week of
4 recognition for their unending services aimed at protecting our
5 communities and assisting Pennsylvania's youth; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of October 20
7 through 24, 2014, as "Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative
8 Programs Week" in Pennsylvania.