

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 72 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY HARHART, MOUL, MUNDY, YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW,
CREIGHTON, FRANKEL, GINGRICH, HELM, MILLER, MURT, O'NEILL,
PICKETT, RAPP, REICHLEY, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, STERN,
STEVENSON, TRUE, WANSACZ AND K. SMITH, FEBRUARY 11, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FEBRUARY 11, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 investigate the costs and benefits of prevention and early
3 intervention programs for the children and youth of this
4 Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that child abuse,
6 delinquency, school dropouts, violence and drug abuse are
7 serious and persistent problems among our youth; and

8 WHEREAS, The cost of services to dependent and delinquent
9 children and youth in Pennsylvania is an estimated \$4 billion
10 per year; and

11 WHEREAS, The cost of housing our children and youth in State-
12 funded placements, including detention, residential and foster
13 care, often exceeds the cost of programs and initiatives that
14 can prevent such placements; and

15 WHEREAS, The demand for quality, cost-effective prevention
16 and intervention programs has never been greater; and

17 WHEREAS, The Center for the Study of Prevention and Violence
18 in Boulder, Colorado, has developed blueprints for exemplary

1 violence prevention programs that have been shown to prevent and
2 reduce rates of child abuse, delinquency, school dropouts,
3 violence and drug abuse; and

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State University's Prevention
5 Research Center for the Promotion of Human Development evaluated
6 nine evidence-based youth violence and delinquency prevention
7 initiatives funded through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime
8 and Delinquency; and

9 WHEREAS, Researchers at the center reported that these
10 community-based initiatives had positive effects on children,
11 including better grades and school attendance, as well as
12 improved parenting skills and parent-child relationships; and

13 WHEREAS, The report also concluded that these programs have
14 significantly decreased the risk factors that contribute to
15 violence, delinquency, recidivism and substance use among our
16 youth; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
18 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to further review
19 research assessing the effectiveness of all prevention and early
20 intervention programs funded by the Commonwealth; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
23 identify additional prevention and early intervention programs
24 that have demonstrated the ability to reduce crime, lower
25 substance abuse, decrease teen pregnancy, reduce suicide
26 attempts, lower child abuse or neglect, reduce domestic violence
27 and improve educational outcomes; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
29 identify specific research-proven programs that produce a
30 positive return on the dollar compared to the costs of the

1 program; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
3 identify all existing Federal, State and county funding streams
4 currently provided for programs to delinquent and dependent
5 youth, mental health and drug and alcohol services and schools;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
8 shall provide recommendations on how to create incentives for
9 the adoption and implementation of evidence-based prevention,
10 intervention and treatment programs; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That such recommendations include the feasibility
12 of reimbursing local governments for a portion of the savings
13 that accrue to the Commonwealth as a result of local investments
14 in evidence-based prevention and intervention programs; and be
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
17 prepare a report of its findings and transmit copies of the
18 report to the House of Representatives no later than one year
19 after the adoption of this resolution.