
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 488 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, BAKER, BOBACK, BOYLE, BURNS, CAUSER,
SCHLEGEL CULVER, DEAN, DEASY, DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN, HENNESSEY,
KIM, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MARSICO, McNEILL, MILLARD,
MURT, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, PASHINSKI, RAPP, READSHAW, ROZZI,
RYAN, SCHWEYER, TOOHL, WARD, WHEELAND AND WATSON,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2017 as "Hunger Action Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, September 2017 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 to create a movement to help end
7 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 a study published by Feeding America,
12 in 2015, 1.67 million Pennsylvanians, including nearly half a
13 million children, did not always know where they would find
14 their next meal; and

15 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvania households experience hunger, and

1 some individuals in these households frequently skip meals or
2 eat too little, sometimes going without food for a whole day;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Research shows that preschool and school-age
5 children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of
6 chronic illness, anxiety, depression and behavioral problems
7 than children receiving a well-balanced diet; and

8 WHEREAS, Food-insecure seniors have lower nutrient intakes
9 than food-secure seniors and, without proper nutrients, seniors
10 are at increased risk of disability, deteriorated health
11 conditions, decreased resistance to infections, lengthened
12 hospital stays, deteriorated mental health and being
13 underweight; 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, Pennsylvania food banks serve more than 2 million
23 individuals annually, including more than 482,000 children and
24 more than 246,000 senior citizens; and

25 WHEREAS, Individuals, charities, businesses and government
26 all have a role to play in getting food to individuals in need;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Food banks, food rescue organizations, soup
29 kitchens, food pantries, faith-based organizations, businesses
30 and individuals are donating time, raising funds and giving food

1 to help their neighbors; and

2 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians benefiting from the nutrition
3 assistance programs and services range from infants and toddlers
4 to school-age children and adolescents to single parents, two-
5 parent families, veterans and their families, individuals with
6 disabilities and seniors; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
8 month of September 2017 as "Hunger Action Month" in
9 Pennsylvania.