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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1152 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, OCTOBER 12, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 12, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 5 through 9, 2018, as  
2 "Pennsylvania Education for Youth Experiencing Homelessness  
3 Awareness Week" and November 9, 2018, as "Red Shirt Day" in  
4 Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, In the 2016-2017 school year, 30,264 students in  
6 Pennsylvania schools were homeless or without adequate housing;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, This represents an approximately 10% increase from  
9 the previous school year; and

10 WHEREAS, The number of homeless students has risen 20% in the  
11 last three years; and

12 WHEREAS, The purpose of this resolution is to educate the  
13 public about the prevalence of youths experiencing homelessness,  
14 the barriers that may prevent youths from attending school and  
15 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act that all schools must  
16 comply with to overcome those barriers; and

17 WHEREAS, There are limited resources available to youths  
18 experiencing homelessness, including the shortage of affordable  
19 housing for displaced minors; and

1 WHEREAS, Homeless assistance service providers, as well as  
2 community service opportunities for students and school service  
3 organizations need public support; and

4 WHEREAS, There are many organizations committed to sheltering  
5 and providing support services, meals and food supplies to  
6 people experiencing homelessness, however, very few of these  
7 services are specific to the needs of unaccompanied minors; and

8 WHEREAS, Many shelters will not accept a child under 18 years  
9 of age without the company of a parent or guardian; and

10 WHEREAS, There is still a dire need for additional resources  
11 to assist students experiencing homelessness to attend school  
12 and be successful, including the basic needs of food, clothing  
13 and educational supplies; and

14 WHEREAS, To show Statewide solidarity with children  
15 experiencing homelessness and their educators, the House of  
16 Representatives encourages Pennsylvanians to wear red on  
17 November 9, 2018, for "Red Shirt Day"; and

18 WHEREAS, The purpose of "Pennsylvania Education for Youth  
19 Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" is to encourage  
20 schools, communities and individuals to plan for and support  
21 assistance programs for youths experiencing homelessness as they  
22 look to complete their education; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
24 week of November 5 through 9, 2018, as "Pennsylvania Education  
25 for Youth Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" and November  
26 9, 2018, as "Red Shirt Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all  
28 residents to recognize that education is key to preventing  
29 future homelessness and provides stability and support to youths  
30 experiencing homelessness.