

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 229 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, COSTA, ALLOWAY, ARGALL, BAKER, BLAKE,
BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, BROWNE, BRUBAKER, CORMAN, DINNIMAN, EARLL,
EICHEMBERGER, ERICKSON, FARNESE, FERLO, FOLMER, GORDNER,
GREENLEAF, HUGHES, KASUNIC, KITCHEN, LEACH, McILHINNEY,
MENSCH, PICCOLA, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, ROBBINS, SCARNATI,
SCHWANK, SMUCKER, SOLOBAY, STACK, TARTAGLIONE, TOMLINSON,
VANCE, VOGEL, VULAKOVICH, WARD, WASHINGTON, WAUGH, D. WHITE,
M. WHITE, WILLIAMS, WOZNIAC, YAW AND YUDICHAK,
OCTOBER 1, 2012

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 1, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 14 through 20, 2012, as
2 "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" will bring
4 attention to the growing problems and issues children
5 experiencing homelessness face throughout Pennsylvania and
6 across the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, The Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
8 states that children are homeless if they lack a fixed, regular
9 and adequate nighttime residence; and

10 WHEREAS, Children of all ages are negatively impacted by
11 homelessness in the areas of physical health, emotional and
12 behavioral development and academic success; and

13 WHEREAS, Children are the fastest growing segment of the
14 homeless population; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2010, 1.6 million children in America experienced
2 homelessness, with more than 31,000 of those youths residing in
3 Pennsylvania; and

4 WHEREAS, Youth experiencing homelessness face several
5 obstacles, including frequent moves which disrupt their
6 education; and

7 WHEREAS, The National Coalition for the Homeless cites
8 studies that show 3 to 6 months of education is lost with every
9 move for a youth experiencing homelessness; and

10 WHEREAS, The national school drop-out rate for children
11 facing homelessness is 60% higher than a child who does not have
12 that experience during the school year; and

13 WHEREAS, For more than a decade, the Homeless Children's
14 Education Fund has been working to ensure that children facing
15 homelessness have access to the same educational opportunities
16 as other kids, in an effort to combat such statistics; and

17 WHEREAS, Act 123 was signed into law July 5, 2012, and
18 establishes a commission under the Pennsylvania Department of
19 Education to study and determine the schooling needs of youth
20 experiencing homelessness; and

21 WHEREAS, Many events will take place during Homeless
22 Children's Awareness Week in Pittsburgh, including an intimate
23 storytelling event, a performance art installation and a 5K Run/
24 Walk for Homeless Children in North Park; and

25 WHEREAS, Individuals and groups across Pennsylvania are
26 encouraged to create their own events during Homeless Children's
27 Awareness Week to raise awareness about the needs and challenges
28 of children and youth experiencing homelessness in Pennsylvania;
29 therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of October 14

1 through 20, 2012, as "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in
2 Pennsylvania.