
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 221 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, FERLO, TEPLITZ, DINNIMAN, STACK,
ERICKSON, FARNESE, GREENLEAF, WASHINGTON, KASUNIC, MENSCH,
BRUBAKER, SCHWANK, SMITH, BROWNE, COSTA, RAFFERTY, PILEGGI,
VOGEL, BREWSTER, VULAKOVICH, BAKER, ALLOWAY, HUGHES AND
SOLOBAY, OCTOBER 2, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 2, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 13 through 19, 2013, 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 this Commonwealth and
6 across the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
8 estimates as many as 2 million people will experience
9 homelessness this year and about half of them will include
10 children and youth; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Children of all ages are negatively impacted by
15 homelessness in the areas of physical health, emotional and
16 behavioral development and academic success; and

1 WHEREAS, Children are the fastest growing segment of the
2 homeless population; and

3 WHEREAS, During the 2011-2012 school year, over 19,000 school
4 age children and youth were reported as experiencing
5 homelessness which made up about 1% of the total Pennsylvania
6 public school enrollment population for that year; and

7 WHEREAS, Youth experiencing homelessness face several
8 obstacles, including frequent moves which disrupt their
9 education, making them twice as likely to repeat a grade; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Coalition for the Homeless cites
11 studies that show youth experiencing homelessness are set back
12 academically three to six months; and

13 WHEREAS, The national school dropout rate for children facing
14 homelessness is 60% higher than for a child who does not have
15 that experience during the school year; and

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

20 WHEREAS, Many events will take place during Homeless
21 Children's Awareness Week in Pittsburgh, including an intimate
22 storytelling event, a performance art installation and a 5K and
23 10K run/walk for homeless children in North Park; and

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

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of October 13
30 through 19, 2013, as "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in

1 Pennsylvania.