
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 275 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, KEARNEY, BLAKE, BROWNE, STREET, HUGHES,
FONTANA, COSTA, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, BARTOLOTTA, IOVINO,
TARTAGLIONE, YUDICHAK AND MUTH, DECEMBER 18, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, DECEMBER 18, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 17 through 22, 2019, as
2 "Pennsylvania Education for Students Experiencing
3 Homelessness Awareness Week" and November 22, 2019, as "Red
4 Shirt Day" in Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, In the 2017-2018 school year, 36,823 students in
6 Pennsylvania schools were homeless or without adequate housing;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, This number represents a 21% increase from the 2016-
9 2017 school year, more than double the increase from the year
10 before; and

11 WHEREAS, There are limited resources available to youths
12 experiencing homelessness, including a shortage of affordable
13 housing for displaced minors; and

14 WHEREAS, Many shelters will not accept youths unless they are
15 accompanied by a parent or guardian; and

16 WHEREAS, Few organizations committed to sheltering and
17 providing support services, meals and food supplies to people
18 experiencing homelessness focus on specific needs of

1 unaccompanied minors; and

2 WHEREAS, School district compliance with the McKinney-Vento
3 Homeless Assistance Act (Public Law 100-77, 101 Stat. 482)
4 addresses certain barriers to enrollment and attendance; and

5 WHEREAS, There is still a dire need for food, clothing,
6 educational supplies and additional resources; and

7 WHEREAS, Providers of homeless assistance, education services
8 and community-based services need public support; and

9 WHEREAS, "Pennsylvania Education for Students Experiencing
10 Homelessness Awareness Week" encourages schools, communities and
11 individuals to plan for and support assistance programs for
12 youths experiencing homelessness; and

13 WHEREAS, To show Statewide solidarity with these youths and
14 their educators, the Senate is encouraging Pennsylvanians to
15 wear red on "Red Shirt Day," November 22, 2019; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of November 17
17 through 22, 2019, as "Pennsylvania Education for Students
18 Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" and November 22, 2019,
19 as "Red Shirt Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all residents of this
21 Commonwealth to recognize that education offers stability and
22 support for displaced or homeless youths and is key to
23 coordinated homelessness prevention in our communities.