

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Governor Tom Corbett and Department of Public Welfare
2 officials to visit any facility which could be subject to a
3 cut in the 2013-2014 State budget and future State budgets.

4 WHEREAS, Over the past two State budget cycles, the
5 Department of Public Welfare has experienced significant cuts
6 that have affected citizens across this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, In the past two State budget cycles, several
8 programming areas within the Department of Public Welfare budget
9 have experienced substantial funding cuts, including community-
10 based family centers, county child welfare, child care
11 assistance, Human Services Development Fund block grant,
12 homeless assistance and health care clinics; and

13 WHEREAS, Department of Public Welfare funding totaled
14 \$8,607,000,000 in 2010-2011, a \$62,000,000 decrease from the
15 2009-2010 fiscal year; appropriations concerning health and
16 human services provided by the Department of Public Welfare were
17 cut 0.8% in relation to the 2009-2010 budget. The services
18 included the Community MR Base Program, special pharmacy

1 services, homeless assistance, child care assistance, domestic
2 violence, rape crisis, breast cancer screening, expanded medical
3 services for women; and county child welfare was also cut by
4 \$26,443,000; and

5 WHEREAS, A \$29,600,000 reduction in funding can be seen in
6 the 2012-2013 budget. The proposed consolidation of the Human
7 Services Development Fund block grant which would consolidate
8 funding for county-run human services programs distributed among
9 the 67 counties. Programs that would be rolled into the Human
10 Services Development Fund include community mental health
11 services, community intellectual disabilities programs, drug and
12 alcohol treatment services, child welfare and homeless
13 assistance. The 20% decrease in funding resulted in a major loss
14 for counties; and

15 WHEREAS, Community-based family centers have seen damaging
16 budget cuts particularly between the 2010-2011 fiscal year and
17 2011-2012 fiscal year as these vital centers faced a negative
18 48.5% difference in funding; and

19 WHEREAS, Community-based family centers are beneficial to
20 communities and families as a whole. Parents learn about their
21 children's development through various activities, gain access
22 to health care information, education, training and employment
23 information; and

24 WHEREAS, Family centers are unique as they meet the needs of
25 the surrounding area in which they are located. Family centers
26 may provide services such as adult education, job training and
27 placement, language skills, literacy programs, parent support
28 groups, parenting skills programs, child health and development
29 screenings, family activities, toy and book lending libraries,
30 child care programs and summer and after-school activities; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Public Welfare there
2 are 32 State-funded family centers in Pennsylvania, 12 are
3 school-based and 20 are community-based centers. Family centers
4 are located in 28 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties and include 62
5 sites. Almost 60% of Pennsylvania's population live in counties
6 served by family centers; and

7 WHEREAS, Centers across the State that assist citizens who
8 suffer from a mental or physical disability will also be greatly
9 impacted by a funding decrease as they assist in allowing
10 individuals to live a productive lifestyle despite their
11 disability; and

12 WHEREAS, State centers operated by the Department of Public
13 Welfare Bureau of Supports for People with Intellectual
14 Disabilities, including the Ebensburg Center, Polk Center, White
15 Haven Center, Hamburg Center and Selinsgrove Center, would be
16 directly affected by a decrease in the Department of Public
17 Welfare budget; and

18 WHEREAS, According to the Central Montgomery Mental Health &
19 Mental Retardation Center, approximately one in five American
20 adults have their lives interrupted by some form of mental
21 illness; and

22 WHEREAS, Centers across this Commonwealth, such as Turtle
23 Creek Valley Mental Health & Mental Retardation, Inc., in
24 Allegheny County, Ken-Care Centers operating primarily in
25 Southeastern Pennsylvania (Berks and Lancaster counties),
26 Keystone Human Services in Central Pennsylvania and St. Joseph's
27 Center in Northeastern Pennsylvania, provide services to
28 individuals which include outpatient services, rehabilitation
29 services, in-home and community-based assistance and adult day
30 care programs, will be affected by a loss or decrease in

1 funding; and

2 WHEREAS, Governor Corbett and Department of Public Welfare
3 officials should visit any facility subject to a budget cut,
4 allowing them to have a clear idea of how the facilities operate
5 with their current level of funding; and

6 WHEREAS, By visiting these facilities and centers throughout
7 this Commonwealth, the Governor and Department of Public Welfare
8 officials will see firsthand how these facilities and centers
9 directly affect the lives of patients, families, employees,
10 friends and community neighbors; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge Governor Tom
12 Corbett and Department of Public Welfare officials to visit any
13 facility which could be subject to a cut in the 2013-2014 State
14 budget and future State budgets; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that
16 community-based family centers and centers for individuals with
17 mental and physical disabilities affect the lives of those who
18 rely on these services in a tremendous manner and should receive
19 fair assessment prior to losing funding.