

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2016 as "Hunger Action Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, September 2016 has been designated as "Hunger Action
4 Month" to provide a unified opportunity for communities in the
5 United States to focus attention on the persistent problem of
6 domestic hunger and to mobilize a movement to end hunger in
7 America; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture gathers
9 information and provides statistics related to domestic hunger;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, In 2014, according to the United States Department
12 of Agriculture, 14% of United States households, including
13 approximately 718,000 Pennsylvania households, were food
14 insecure; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2014, according to a study published by Feeding
16 America, 1,760,450 Pennsylvanians, including 521,750 children,
17 did not always know where they would find their next meal; and

1 WHEREAS, Hunger is a reality for approximately 14% of the
2 population in Pennsylvania, or nearly one in seven
3 Pennsylvanians; and

4 WHEREAS, Many United States households experience hunger, and
5 some people in these households frequently skip meals or eat too
6 little, sometimes going without food for a whole day; and

7 WHEREAS, Research shows that preschool and school-age
8 children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of
9 chronic illness, anxiety, depression and behavioral problems
10 than children receiving a well-balanced diet; and

11 WHEREAS, Food-insecure seniors have lower nutrient intakes
12 than food-secure seniors, and without proper nutrients, seniors
13 are at increased risk of disability, deteriorating physical and
14 mental health, decreased resistance to infections, lengthened
15 hospital stays and being underweight; and

16 WHEREAS, The costs of other essentials, such as home heating,
17 gasoline, housing and medical care, have increased
18 significantly, and for families caught in the squeeze between
19 declining wages and rising costs, the food budget becomes a
20 frequent pressure point; and

21 WHEREAS, Utilization of emergency food assistance becomes a
22 way for these families to keep food on the table while still
23 paying the bills; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2014, according to the United States Department
25 of Agriculture, approximately 5.5% of all United States
26 households accessed emergency food from a food pantry at least
27 once; and

28 WHEREAS, Individuals, charities, businesses and government
29 all have a role to play in getting food to those in need; and

30 WHEREAS, Food banks, food rescue organizations, soup

1 kitchens, food pantries, faith-based organizations, businesses
2 and individuals are donating time, raising funds and giving food
3 to help their neighbors; and

4 WHEREAS, Individuals benefiting from the availability of
5 donated food range from infants and toddlers, school-age
6 children and adolescents to single mothers, single fathers, two-
7 parent families, veterans and their families and seniors;
8 therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
10 month of September 2016 as "Hunger Action Month" in
11 Pennsylvania.