

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 602 Session of  
2017

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, BIZZARRO, MURT, THOMAS, DONATUCCI,  
LONGIETTI, DRISCOLL, KINSEY, PASHINSKI, TOOHL, NEILSON,  
MILLARD AND READSHAW, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
NOVEMBER 14, 2017

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 13 through 17, 2017, as  
2 "Pennsylvania Education for Youth Experiencing Homelessness  
3 Awareness Week" and November 17, 2017, as "Red Shirt Day" in  
4 Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, In the 2015-2016 school year, 27,274 students in  
6 Pennsylvania schools were homeless or without adequate housing;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, This represents a 5.5% increase from the previous  
9 school year; and

10 WHEREAS, The number of homeless students has risen 15% in the  
11 last 2 years; and

12 WHEREAS, The purpose of this resolution is to educate the  
13 public about the prevalence of youths experiencing homelessness,  
14 the barriers that may prevent youths from attending school and  
15 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Public Law 100-77,  
16 101 Stat. 482) that all schools must comply with to overcome  
17 those barriers; and

18 WHEREAS, There are limited resources available to youths

1 experiencing homelessness, including the shortage of affordable  
2 housing for displaced minors; and

3 WHEREAS, Homeless assistance service providers, as well as  
4 community service opportunities for students and school service  
5 organizations need public support; and

6 WHEREAS, There are many organizations committed to sheltering  
7 and providing support services, meals and food supplies to  
8 people experiencing homelessness, however, very few of these  
9 services are specific to the needs of unaccompanied minors; and

10 WHEREAS, Many shelters will not accept a child under 18 years  
11 of age without the company of a parent or guardian; and

12 WHEREAS, There is still a dire need for additional resources  
13 to assist students experiencing homelessness to attend school  
14 and be successful, including the basic needs of food, clothing  
15 and educational supplies; and

16 WHEREAS, To show Statewide solidarity with children  
17 experiencing homelessness and their educators, the House of  
18 Representatives encourages Pennsylvanians to wear red on  
19 November 17, 2017, for "Red Shirt Day"; and

20 WHEREAS, The purpose of "Pennsylvania Education for Youth  
21 Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" is to encourage  
22 schools, communities and individuals to plan for and support  
23 assistance programs for youths experiencing homelessness as they  
24 look to complete their education; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
26 week of November 13 through 17, 2017, as "Pennsylvania Education  
27 for Youth Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" and November  
28 17, 2017, as "Red Shirt Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all  
30 residents to recognize that education is key to preventing

- 1 future homelessness and provides stability and support to youths
- 2 experiencing homelessness.