
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1072 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY BURNS, MURT, TAI, DALEY, CONKLIN AND SCHWEYER,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the United States Attorney General conduct a
2 comprehensive, nationwide investigation into child sexual
3 abuse within the Catholic Church and related institutional
4 cover-ups.

5 WHEREAS, All children in the United States have a right to
6 safety and freedom from physical, mental, emotional and sexual
7 abuse; and

8 WHEREAS, The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of
9 Pennsylvania recently completed a sweeping grand jury
10 investigation into the alleged sexual abuse of children in six
11 Catholic dioceses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

12 WHEREAS, The 40th Statewide Investigating Grand Jury Report
13 1, Interim -- Redacted indicates that more than 300 priests
14 sexually abused more than 1,000 identifiable victims over a 70-
15 year period; and

16 WHEREAS, The grand jury report details horrific abuse,
17 including rape, assault and production of child pornography; and

18 WHEREAS, The grand jury report asserts that priests, bishops
19 and other church leaders methodically covered up reported

1 incidents; and

2 WHEREAS, The grand jury report further asserts that offenders
3 shamed or coerced abused children into silence; and

4 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Investigating Grand Jury Report
5 into Allegations of Clergy Sexual Abuse in The Archdiocese of
6 Philadelphia, issued in 2005, documented rampant sexual abuse
7 and coordinated cover-ups by archdiocesan priests and officials;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, A 2011 Report of the County Investigating Grand Jury
10 XXIII indicated that Philadelphia archdiocesan leaders failed to
11 implement Pennsylvania Victim Advocate recommendations and
12 failed to protect children from clergy-perpetrated sexual abuse;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The 37th Statewide Investigating Grand Jury
15 empaneled in 2014 reported that hundreds of children had been
16 sexually abused by at least 50 different priests in the Diocese
17 of Altoona-Johnstown; and

18 WHEREAS, The report stated: "As wolves disguised as the
19 shepherds themselves-these men stole the innocence of children
20 by sexually preying upon the most innocent and vulnerable
21 members of our society and of the Catholic faith"; and

22 WHEREAS, A 2004 study by the John Jay College of Criminal
23 Justice attempted to examine this issue nationally, but the
24 study relied on church records and reports by bishops without
25 broad inquiry into institutional dynamics; and

26 WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,
27 the governing body for priests then under investigation, funded
28 more than half the cost of the \$1.8 million study; and

29 WHEREAS, An independent Federal body without ties to the
30 Catholic Church is the only entity equipped to pursue a fair,

1 thorough investigation of abuse that has likely occurred in
2 parishes across the United States; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania request that the United States
5 Attorney General conduct a comprehensive, nationwide
6 investigation into child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church
7 and related institutional cover-ups; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the investigation identify:

9 (1) efforts by church personnel to cover up child sexual
10 abuse claims;

11 (2) settlement of victims' claims with secret civil
12 agreements or payouts; and

13 (3) retention of accused clergy in church ministries and
14 administration;

15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
17 the President of the United States, the United States Attorney
18 General and each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.