

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1165 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, BIZZARRO, HENNESSEY, RABB, JAMES,
DIGIROLAMO, READSHAW, LONGIETTI, BURNS, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
NEILSON, YOUNGBLOOD, MILLARD, SAYLOR, HILL-EVANS, DRISCOLL,
CALTAGIRONE AND FRANKEL, OCTOBER 15, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 15, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 25, 2018, as "Lights On Afterschool Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth stand firmly
4 committed to quality after-school programs and opportunities
5 because they:

6 (1) provide safe, challenging and engaging learning
7 experiences that help children develop social, emotional,
8 physical and academic skills;

9 (2) support working families by ensuring that their
10 children are safe and productive after the regular school day
11 ends;

12 (3) build stronger communities by involving students,
13 parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives
14 of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships
15 among youth, families and adults; and

16 (4) engage families, schools and community partners in

1 advancing the welfare of our children;

2 and

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has provided significant
4 leadership in the area of community involvement in the education
5 and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that
6 quality after-school programs are key to helping our children
7 become successful adults; and

8 WHEREAS, It is estimated that every \$1 invested in after-
9 school programs saves \$3 by increasing students' earning
10 potential, improving students' performance at school and
11 reducing crime and welfare costs; and

12 WHEREAS, For students in kindergarten through twelfth grade,
13 more than 89% of their time is spent learning outside school
14 during after-school and summer programs, in libraries, museums
15 and science centers or at home or in the community; and

16 WHEREAS, After-school programs engage students in hands-on,
17 real world science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)
18 projects to help build vital 21st-century skills, cultivate an
19 interest in STEM and offer innovative ways for students to
20 connect STEM to their lives and community; and

21 WHEREAS, Approximately 19.4 million families report that they
22 would enroll their child in an after-school program if one were
23 available; and

24 WHEREAS, After-school programs can provide holistic support
25 for children and improve the development of social and emotional
26 competencies, such as problem solving, critical thinking and
27 interpersonal skills; and

28 WHEREAS, Many after-school programs across the country are
29 facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced
30 to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

1 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is committed to investing in the
2 health and safety of all young people by providing expanded
3 learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap
4 and prepare young people to compete in the global economy; and

5 WHEREAS, "Lights On Afterschool," the national celebration of
6 after-school programs held this year on October 25, 2018,
7 promotes the importance of quality after-school programs in the
8 lives of children, families and communities; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October
10 25, 2018, as "Lights On Afterschool Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
11 it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives enthusiastically
13 endorse "Lights On Afterschool" and commit this Commonwealth to
14 engage in innovative after-school programs and activities that
15 ensure that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all
16 children after school.