

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 452 Session of  
2018

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, BOSCOLA, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF,  
SABATINA, COSTA, BLAKE, BREWSTER, BAKER, HUGHES, SCHWANK,  
WARD, RAFFERTY, STREET, FARNESE AND AUMENT, OCTOBER 2, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 2, 2018

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 14 through 20, 2018, as  
2 "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" brings  
4 attention to the growing problems and issues facing homeless  
5 children throughout this Commonwealth and across the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, Families with children are the fastest-growing  
7 segment of the homeless population; and

8 WHEREAS, A total of 42% of homeless children in this  
9 Commonwealth are six years of age or younger; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Education, there were  
11 more than 30,264 reported cases of homeless school-age children  
12 in this Commonwealth during the 2016-2017 school year; and

13 WHEREAS, There are homeless students in every county in this  
14 Commonwealth and these students are about 1% of the total  
15 population enrolled in public schools; and

16 WHEREAS, The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, enacted  
17 in 1987, states that children are homeless if they lack a fixed,



1 regular and adequate nighttime residence; and

2 WHEREAS, The Federal act provides the basis for agency  
3 funding to combat homelessness and was later amended to include  
4 protection for homeless youths in public education, effectively  
5 defining how schools must handle this issue and what actions  
6 must be taken; and

7 WHEREAS, Children of all ages are negatively impacted by  
8 homelessness in the areas of physical health, emotional and  
9 behavioral development, and academic success; and

10 WHEREAS, For many homeless students, coming to school every  
11 day is the only stability they know, since they often face  
12 obstacles like losing treasured possessions and dealing with  
13 hunger and sleep deprivation; and

14 WHEREAS, Keeping a student in their original school is  
15 essential to their education since every time a student changes  
16 schools, they are set back academically by three to six months;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The national school drop-out rate for homeless  
19 children is 60% higher than for children who do not experience  
20 homelessness during the school year; and

21 WHEREAS, For more than 19 years, the Homeless Children's  
22 Education Fund has advanced the education of children and youths  
23 experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County in an effort to  
24 combat the statistics; and

25 WHEREAS, Many events are taking place in Pittsburgh during  
26 "Homeless Children's Awareness Week," including three "Stand Up  
27 for Homeless Children" performance art installations, an evening  
28 of trivia and a karaoke night; and

29 WHEREAS, Individuals and groups across this Commonwealth are  
30 encouraged to create their own events during "Homeless



1 Children's Awareness Week" to raise awareness about the needs  
2 and challenges of children and youths experiencing homelessness;  
3 therefore be it

4       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of October 14  
5 through 20, 2018, as "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in  
6 Pennsylvania.