
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 221 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY COMMITTA, KORTZ, BURNS, DIGIROLAMO, LONGIETTI,
DONATUCCI, WILLIAMS, O'MARA, MURT, KINSEY, BIZZARRO, MILLARD,
DAVIDSON, HILL-EVANS, READSHAW AND NEILSON, APRIL 11, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 11, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating calendar year 2019 as the "Year of the Student
2 Journalist" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, A free press is essential to the support and
4 preservation of our freedoms; and

5 WHEREAS, Student journalists play a key role in the civic
6 life of their community; and

7 WHEREAS, Student journalists report on important issues in
8 the life of a school or school district; and

9 WHEREAS, As the number of professional journalists has
10 dwindled, student journalists often also fill the gap in
11 reporting on State, county and regional issues; and

12 WHEREAS, The right to freedom of speech and freedom of the
13 press is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States
14 and the Constitution of Pennsylvania for every resident of this
15 Commonwealth, including student journalists; and

16 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's regulations pertaining to
17 student freedom of expression serve to further support and

1 protect the free speech rights of student journalists attending
2 public high schools; and

3 WHEREAS, It is highly important that student journalists are
4 free to exercise their Federal and State constitutional rights
5 to freedom of speech and freedom of the press; and

6 WHEREAS, Students across this nation have led efforts to
7 preserve and protect student press freedom, which has resulted
8 in the enactment of legislation in 14 states and pending
9 legislation in at least eight other states; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2014, a Pew research study found that student
11 journalists comprise 14% of the overall state House reporting
12 corps within this nation's 50 state capitol buildings; and

13 WHEREAS, 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the 1969 United
14 States Supreme Court decision in *Tinker v. Des Moines*
15 *Independent Community School District*, which was a landmark
16 ruling defending the free press and free speech rights of
17 students; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
19 calendar year 2019 as the "Year of the Student Journalist" in
20 Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor this
22 Commonwealth's high school, college and university student
23 journalists for their role in exercising, preserving and
24 protecting Federal and State constitutional rights to freedom of
25 speech and freedom of the press.