
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 320 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY KENYATTA, BURGOS, HILL-EVANS, O'MARA, MURT,
KINSEY, TOOHIL, RYAN, T. DAVIS, YOUNGBLOOD, HARRIS, HOWARD,
WARREN, KIRKLAND, McCLINTON AND MADDEN, MAY 8, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MAY 8, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Human Services to investigate child
2 abuse in all child residential and day treatment facilities
3 in this Commonwealth and make policy recommendations
4 regarding the decades of abuse uncovered at the Glen Mills
5 Schools.

6 WHEREAS, In 2019, the Philadelphia Inquirer investigated and
7 uncovered decades of severe child abuse at the Glen Mills
8 Schools (Glen Mills), a child residential and day treatment
9 facility in Delaware County; and

10 WHEREAS, The investigation revealed that a child had been
11 thrown on his head and knocked unconscious and another had his
12 jaw broken simply for making impolite comments; and

13 WHEREAS, The investigation discovered that children who ran
14 from the abuse were choked by Glen Mills' staff; and

15 WHEREAS, Glen Mills' staff coerced students and their parents
16 into not filing complaints whenever parents became aware of the
17 abuse; and

18 WHEREAS, Glen Mills' staff frequently threatened students and
19 their parents by stating that filing a complaint would cause a

1 transfer to a lower-quality facility; and

2 WHEREAS, Glen Mills' staff threatened that the transfer to a
3 different facility would nullify the time that the child had
4 already served at Glen Mills, thereby lengthening the child's
5 overall sentence; and

6 WHEREAS, In response to the rampant abuse and coercion, the
7 Governor ordered a complete review of all complaints lodged
8 against Glen Mills; and

9 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services, the Office of
10 District Attorney of Delaware County, and the Office of Auditor
11 General have all opened investigations into Glen Mills to
12 uncover the extent of the abuse; and

13 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth must defend children from abuse and
14 coercion committed by individuals responsible for the children's
15 education and rehabilitation; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
17 Department of Human Services to investigate child abuse in all
18 child residential and day treatment facilities in this
19 Commonwealth and make policy recommendations regarding the
20 decades of abuse uncovered at the Glen Mills Schools; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
23 Department of Human Services to review protocols for reporting
24 abuse in all child residential and day treatment facilities in
25 this Commonwealth; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
27 Department of Human Services to provide policy recommendations
28 to improve enforcement of reporting requirements under the Child
29 Protective Services Law for child residential and day treatment
30 facilities.