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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 320 Session of  
2019

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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

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

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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.