
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 503 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, ROEBUCK, FRANKEL, BIZZARRO, BURNS,
JONES, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS, DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN, SCHLOSSBERG,
KORTZ, KINSEY, BOBACK, BROOKS, YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE,
MENTZER, KIM, A. DAVIS, INNAMORATO, READSHAW, MURT, STURLA
AND McCLINTON, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2019 as "Hunger Action Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, September 2019 has been designated as "Hunger Action
4 Month" to provide a unified opportunity for communities in the
5 United States to focus attention on the persistent problem of
6 domestic hunger and mobilize efforts to help end hunger in
7 America; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture gathers
9 information and provides statistics related to domestic hunger;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, According to a study published by Feeding America,
12 in 2017, approximately 12.5% or 1.6 million Pennsylvanians,
13 including 439,340 children, did not always know where they would
14 find their next meal; and

15 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvania households experience hunger, and
16 some people in these households frequently skip meals or eat too

1 little, sometimes going without food for a whole day; and

2 WHEREAS, Research shows that preschool and school-age
3 children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of
4 chronic illness, anxiety, depression and behavioral problems
5 than children receiving a well-balanced diet; and

6 WHEREAS, Food-insecure senior citizens have lower nutrient
7 intakes than food-secure senior citizens and, without proper
8 nutrients, senior citizens are at increased risk of disability,
9 deteriorated health conditions, decreased resistance to
10 infections, lengthened hospital stays, deteriorated mental
11 health and being underweight; and

12 WHEREAS, The costs of other essentials, such as home heating,
13 housing and medical care, have increased significantly and, for
14 families caught in the squeeze between declining wages and
15 rising costs, the food budget becomes a frequent pressure point;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Utilization of emergency food assistance becomes a
18 way for these individuals and families to keep food on the table
19 while still paying the bills; and

20 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania food banks serve approximately 2
21 million people annually, including more than 482,000 children
22 and more than 246,000 senior citizens; and

23 WHEREAS, Individuals, charities, businesses and government
24 all have a role to play in getting food to those in need; and

25 WHEREAS, Food banks, food rescue organizations, soup
26 kitchens, food pantries, faith-based organizations, businesses
27 and individuals are donating time, raising funds and giving food
28 to help their neighbors; and

29 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians benefiting from the nutrition
30 assistance programs and services range from infants and toddlers

1 to school-age children and adolescents to single parents, two-
2 parent families, veterans and their families, people with
3 disabilities and senior citizens; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
5 month of September 2019 as "Hunger Action Month" in
6 Pennsylvania.