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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 205 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY SCARNATI, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

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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 to mobilize and create a movement to help  
7 end hunger in 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, 12% or nearly 1.6 million Pennsylvanians, including  
13 437,340 children, did not always know where they would find  
14 their next meal; and

15 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvania households experience hunger, and  
16 some people in these households frequently skip meals or eat too  
17 little, sometimes going without food for a whole day; and

18 WHEREAS, Research shows that preschool and school-age

1 children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of  
2 chronic illness, anxiety and depression and behavioral problems  
3 than children receiving a well-balanced diet; and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania food banks serve nearly 2 million  
19 people annually, including more than 430,000 children and more  
20 than 360,000 senior citizens; and

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

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

28 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians benefiting from the nutrition  
29 assistance programs and services range from infants and toddlers  
30 to school-age children and adolescents, single parents, two-

1 parent families, veterans and their families, people with  
2 disabilities and seniors; therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of September  
4 2019 as "Hunger Action Month" in Pennsylvania.