
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 238 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, FARNESE, KEARNEY, HUGHES, COLLETT,
BARTOLOTTA, DINNIMAN, J. WARD, IOVINO, BROWNE, BREWSTER,
BAKER, TARTAGLIONE AND SCHWANK, OCTOBER 21, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 21, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 13 through 19, 2019, as
2 "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" brings
4 attention to the growing problems and issues facing homeless
5 children throughout this Commonwealth and across the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, During the 2017-2018 school year the Department of
7 Education identified 36,823 children and youth as homeless,
8 which was an increase of 21% from the previous school year; and

9 WHEREAS, The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states
10 that children are homeless if they lack a fixed, regular and
11 adequate nighttime residence; and

12 WHEREAS, Children of all ages are negatively impacted by
13 homelessness in the areas of physical health, emotional and
14 behavioral development and academic success; and

15 WHEREAS, Children are the fastest-growing segment of the
16 homeless population; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Coalition for the Homeless cites

1 studies indicating that youths experiencing homelessness are set
2 back academically by three to six months each time they switch
3 schools; and

4 WHEREAS, The national school dropout rate for homeless
5 children is 60% higher than for children who do not experience
6 homelessness during the school year; and

7 WHEREAS, This year, the Homeless Children's Education Fund is
8 celebrating 20 years of working to advance the education of
9 children and youth experiencing homelessness in Allegheny
10 County; and

11 WHEREAS, The Homeless Children's Education Fund is hosting a
12 Stand Up for Homeless Children performance art installation to
13 raise awareness in Market Square in downtown Pittsburgh; and

14 WHEREAS, During this art installation, volunteers of all ages
15 will stand for 15 minutes holding a drawing of a face of a child
16 in front of their own face to represent the over 4,100 children
17 identified by Allegheny County schools as homeless at some point
18 last year; and

19 WHEREAS, Individuals and groups across this Commonwealth are
20 encouraged to create their own events during "Homeless
21 Children's Awareness Week" to raise awareness about the needs
22 and challenges of children and youths experiencing homelessness;
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of October 13
25 through 19, 2019, as "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in
26 Pennsylvania.