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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 408 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, FONTANA, SCHWANK, COSTA AND MUTH,  
OCTOBER 26, 2020

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 26, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 16 through 20, 2020, as  
2 "Pennsylvania Education for Students Experiencing  
3 Homelessness Awareness Week" and November 20, 2020, as "Red  
4 Shirt Day" in Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, In the 2018-2019 school year, 39,221 students in  
6 Pennsylvania schools were homeless or without adequate housing;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, This represents an 8% increase from the 2017-2018  
9 school year, which was a 30% increase from the year before; and

10 WHEREAS, The purpose of this resolution is to educate the  
11 public about the prevalence of students experiencing  
12 homelessness, the barriers that may prevent youths from  
13 attending school and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act  
14 (Public Law 100-77, 101 Stat. 482) that all schools must comply  
15 with to overcome those barriers; and

16 WHEREAS, There are limited resources available to youths  
17 experiencing homelessness, including the shortage of affordable  
18 housing for displaced minors; and

19 WHEREAS, Homeless assistance service providers, as well as

1 community service opportunities for students and school service  
2 organizations need public support; and

3 WHEREAS, There are many organizations committed to sheltering  
4 and providing support services, meals and food supplies to  
5 people experiencing homelessness. However, very few of these  
6 services are specific to the needs of unaccompanied minors; and

7 WHEREAS, Many shelters will not accept a child under 18 years  
8 of age without the company of a parent or guardian; and

9 WHEREAS, There is still a dire need for additional resources  
10 to assist students experiencing homelessness to attend school  
11 and be successful, including the basic needs of food, clothing  
12 and educational supplies; and

13 WHEREAS, To show Statewide solidarity with children  
14 experiencing homelessness and their educators, the Senate  
15 encourages Pennsylvanians to wear red on November 20, 2020, for  
16 "Red Shirt Day"; and

17 WHEREAS, The purpose of "Pennsylvania Education for Students  
18 Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" is to encourage  
19 schools, communities and individuals to plan for and support  
20 assistance programs for youths experiencing homelessness as they  
21 look to complete their education; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of November 16  
23 through 20, 2020, as "Pennsylvania Education for Students  
24 Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" and November 20, 2020,  
25 as "Red Shirt Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all residents of this  
27 Commonwealth to recognize that education is key to preventing  
28 future homelessness and provides stability and support to youths  
29 experiencing homelessness.