
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 544 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, OCTOBER 19, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 19, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 2 through 6, 2015, as
2 "Pennsylvania Education for Youth Experiencing Homelessness
3 Awareness Week" and November 6, 2015, as "Red Shirt Day" in
4 Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, In the 2013-2014 school year, 24,504 students in
6 Pennsylvania schools were homeless or without adequate housing;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, This represents a 9% increase from the 2012-2013
9 school year; and

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

16 WHEREAS, There are limited resources available to youth
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 House of
15 Representatives encourages Pennsylvanians to wear red on
16 November 6, 2015, for "Red Shirt Day"; and

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

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
23 week of November 2 through 6, 2015, as "Pennsylvania Education
24 for Youth Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" and November
25 6, 2015, as "Red Shirt Day"; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
27 residents to recognize that education is key to preventing
28 future homelessness and provides stability and support to youth
29 experiencing homelessness.