

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1598

Designating November 2024 as “National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

RESOLUTION

Designating November 2024 as “National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month”.

Whereas, in the United States, public schools identified nearly 1,400,000 enrolled homeless children and youth during the 2022 to 2023 school year, a 14 percent increase from the previous school year;

Whereas every year an estimated 1,200,000 children younger than 6 years of age, and approximately 4,200,000 youth and young adults, experience homelessness, with many of those children, youth, and young adults staying on couches, in motels, in shelters, or outside;

Whereas infants experiencing homelessness are at a higher risk for certain illnesses and health conditions;

Whereas families experiencing homelessness are more likely to experience involvement in the child welfare system and difficulty with school attendance;

Whereas more than 52 percent of students that experienced homelessness during the 2021 to 2022 school year were chronically absent, a rate 22 percent higher than other students;

Whereas, in 2021, high school students experiencing homelessness were nearly twice as likely to have seriously considered suicide or made a suicide plan and more than 3 times as likely to have made a suicide attempt within the past year;

Whereas individuals without a high school degree or general educational development certificate are over 4.5 times more likely to report homelessness than their peers who completed high school, making lack of education the leading risk factor for homelessness;

Whereas, in 2022, the high school graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness was 68 percent, compared to 80 percent for low-income students and 85.5 percent for all students;

Whereas the rate of youth homelessness is the same in rural, suburban, and urban areas;

Whereas 29 percent of unaccompanied homeless youth between 13 and 25 years of age have spent time in foster care, compared to approximately 6 percent of all children;

Whereas homelessness among children and youth is a complex issue that often occurs with deep poverty, low education and employment levels, substance misuse and use disorders, mental health disorders, lack of affordable housing, and family conflict; and

Whereas awareness of child and youth homelessness must be heightened to encourage greater support for effective programs to help children and youth overcome homelessness: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the efforts of businesses, govern-
3 ments, organizations, educators, and volunteers dedi-
4 cated to meeting the needs of homeless children and
5 youth;

6 (2) applauds the initiatives of businesses, gov-
7 ernments, organizations, educators, and volunteers
8 that—

9 (A) use time and resources to raise aware-
10 ness of child and youth homelessness, the
11 causes of child and youth homelessness, and po-
12 tential solutions; and

13 (B) work to prevent homelessness among
14 children and youth;

15 (3) supports the designation of a “National
16 Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month”;
17 and

18 (4) encourages businesses, governments, organi-
19 zations, educators, and volunteers to continue to in-
20 tensify their efforts to address homelessness among
21 children and youth.

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