
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 450 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY DONAHUE, BURGOS, HILL-EVANS, KHAN, GALLAGHER,
GIRAL, McNEILL, HADDOCK, SANCHEZ, STEELE, PASHINSKI, KINSEY,
HANBIDGE, BOROWSKI AND ROZZI, MAY 22, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 22, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 20, 2024, as "Candidate Pledge Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Americans are more polarized than ever before, with
4 increasingly inflammatory rhetoric and visceral hatred for the
5 other side; and

6 WHEREAS, A 2023 survey by the Public Religion Research
7 Institute and the Brookings Institution found that Americans are
8 increasingly in favor of political violence; and

9 WHEREAS, Despite the increasing incivility in American
10 politics, a 2023 Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public
11 Service Battleground Civility Poll found that a majority of
12 voters want their political leaders to compromise and find
13 common ground; and

14 WHEREAS, A young teenager from Tennessee, Hannah-Kate
15 McFadden, is working to solve this by having prospective elected
16 officials sign and uphold "The Candidate Pledge" and elected
17 officials sign and uphold "The Elected Official Pledge"; and

1 WHEREAS, Hannah-Kate McFadden's efforts began in 2020, when
2 the sign of the candidate she volunteered for was vandalized
3 outside her home and when it was replaced, the trees outside her
4 home were covered in toilet paper; and

5 WHEREAS, Hannah-Kate McFadden became demoralized and thought
6 about giving up on volunteering; and

7 WHEREAS, McFadden's mother posted about the incident on X,
8 formerly known as Twitter, and caught the attention of Maria
9 Shriver, the former First Lady of California, who posted that
10 McFadden should "Keep Going. I'm Inspired by her"; and

11 WHEREAS, McFadden was inspired to foster a healthier
12 political environment and created "The Candidate Pledge" on
13 September 20, 2020, which contains principles such as no
14 bullying, stick to the issues, no name calling, agree to
15 disagree, don't use bad language and always remember the people
16 you are serving; and

17 WHEREAS, McFadden continues to promote civility in politics;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Signees to "The Candidate Pledge" include
20 politicians and political candidates in numerous states; and

21 WHEREAS, Hannah-Kate McFadden reminds us that we cannot let
22 incivility prevent us from coming together to solve the most
23 pressing problems of our times; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
25 September 20, 2024, as "Candidate Pledge Day" in Pennsylvania;
26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That partisan differences should not prevent us as
28 legislators from working together to improve the Commonwealth of
29 Pennsylvania and the lives of its residents.