
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 527 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY MERSKI, HARKINS, CONKLIN, PROBST, MAYES, McNEILL,
VENKAT, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, HILL-EVANS, HOWARD, SANCHEZ, GREEN,
GALLAGHER AND CERRATO, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2024 as "Healthy Hunger-Free
2 Kids Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Hunger is a reality for many students, with one in
4 eight children in this Commonwealth experiencing severe hunger;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, As many as 13 million children in the United States
7 live in food-insecure homes, where there is not enough food for
8 every family member; and

9 WHEREAS, We are fighting not only hunger in our children, but
10 also millions of tons of food waste; and

11 WHEREAS, An average of 28.6 million lunches are served daily
12 across the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, An estimated 530,000 tons of food and 45 million
14 gallons of milk are wasted per year in school cafeterias; and

15 WHEREAS, The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act went into effect
16 in December 2010; and

17 WHEREAS, Under the act, students must take a certain number

1 of items, including a fruit or vegetable; and

2 WHEREAS, Schools must serve the same size meals to
3 kindergarteners, for whom the lunch might be too much, and older
4 students, for whom it might not be enough; and

5 WHEREAS, Research shows that many students are throwing the
6 required healthier options into the trash; and

7 WHEREAS, Share tables are a place where students can return
8 unopened food and drinks that they choose not to consume so that
9 other students may take additional helpings at no cost; and

10 WHEREAS, Share tables are an excellent way for child
11 nutrition programs to reduce food waste and provide nutrition
12 for hungry kids; and

13 WHEREAS, Share tables are an innovative strategy to encourage
14 the consumption of nutritious foods and reduce food waste;
15 therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
17 month of September 2024 as "Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Month" in
18 Pennsylvania.