



**State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE**

LRB-4715/2
CMH:amn

2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 99

November 4, 2019 – Introduced by Representatives SNYDER, SARGENT, ANDERSON, BOWEN, DITTRICH, EMERSON, HESSELBEIN, KULP, MILROY, MURSAU, PETRYK, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK, TAUCHEN, C. TAYLOR, Vining and VRUWINK, cosponsored by Senators OLSEN, CARPENTER, BEWLEY, LARSON and L. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 Relating to: proclaiming November 2019 as Runaway Prevention Month in
2 Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, in the United States, November is recognized as National Runaway
4 Prevention Month; and

5 Whereas, one in seven young people between ages 10 and 18 will run away from
6 home, leading to millions who runaway each year because of severe family
7 dysfunction, physical or sexual abuse, or their parents are unable or unwilling to
8 fulfill parental responsibilities; and

9 Whereas, if all of America's 1.6 to 2.8 million runaways lived in one city, it would
10 be the fifth largest city in the United States; and

Whereas, runaway youth are often homeless and unaccompanied, lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian; and

1 Whereas, a 2018 study conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and
2 Urban Development found that the number of unaccompanied homeless youth and
3 children is estimated to be 36,361; and

4 Whereas, according to the Department of Public Instruction's data on homeless
5 children and youth in Wisconsin, 2,450 enrolled students are homeless and
6 unaccompanied, and 18,854 are homeless; and

7 Whereas, statistically, runaway and unaccompanied homeless youth are at
8 higher risk for experiencing sexual or physical abuse, being targeted for sex and
9 labor trafficking, and abusing alcohol and drugs, which means there is a positive
10 social return on investing in ending youth homelessness; and

11 Whereas, the runaway and homeless youth crisis is a problem that is solvable
12 with awareness, education, and evidence-based services and programming; and

13 Whereas, by acknowledging there is a housing and runaway and homeless
14 youth crisis that is sweeping our state and our country, we can bring visibility to the
15 youth facing these dangerous circumstances every day and work to provide
16 meaningful resources and services to youth who need them; and

17 Whereas, recognizing Runaway Prevention Month is a key first step in raising
18 awareness about the runaway and homeless youth crisis in Wisconsin, educating the
19 public about their role in ending youth homelessness, and supporting young people
20 who have run away or are at risk of running away; now, therefore, be it

21 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
22 Wisconsin Legislature do hereby proclaim November 2019 as Runaway Prevention
23 Month in the state of Wisconsin; and, be it further

1 ***Resolved, That*** the legislature calls upon our citizens to learn more about
2 housing insecurity and how they can play an important role in addressing the
3 homeless and unaccompanied youth crisis.

4 (END)