

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is charged with providing programs of supervision, care, and rehabilitation, which provide balanced attention to the protection of our communities, the imposition of accountability for offenses committed by juveniles, and the development of competencies to enable children who come within the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system to become responsible and productive members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is based on the principles of restorative justice, which give priority to repairing the harm done to crime victims and communities, and define offender accountability in terms of assuming responsibility and taking action to repair harm; and

WHEREAS, this mission is premised on the belief that crime victims, communities, and juvenile offenders must all be regarded as clients of the juvenile justice system who should receive tangible benefits from their interactions with the system; and

WHEREAS, community protection refers to the fundamental right of all Pennsylvania citizens to both be and feel safe from crime; and

WHEREAS, victim restoration emphasizes that crime can forever change its victims and that the goal of victim restoration programs and services should be to restore crime victims, to the greatest extent possible, to their pre-crime status; and

WHEREAS, youth redemption embodies the belief that the vast majority of juvenile offenders are capable of change and have strengths upon which treatment services can build; and

WHEREAS, all services designed and implemented to achieve this mission and all hearings and decisions under Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act — indeed, all aspects of the juvenile system — must be provided in a fair and unbiased manner.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 1-7, 2023 to be

JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK

for the purpose to call on all Pennsylvanians, government agencies, public and private institutions, and schools to remain committed to raising awareness and understanding of juvenile justice.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this sixth day of September two thousand twenty-three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-eighth.

Governor Josh Shapiro