STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the prevalence of youth who runaway and are homeless is staggering, with national studies suggesting that between 1.6 million and 2.8 million youth experience homelessness every year; and

WHEREAS, throughout the country, an estimated 200,000 youth under 18 years of age, and thousands more between ages 18 and 24, are homeless for one or more days each year in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of runaway and homeless youth have been expelled from their homes by their families and/or physically, sexually and emotionally abused at home; and

WHEREAS, estimates show that LGBTQ+ youth comprise up to 40 percent of the total unaccompanied homeless youth population, even though they make up just five to 10 percent of the overall youth population; and

WHEREAS, other homeless youth may have been separated from their parents by death or divorce with no biological family or kin willing or able to house and support them; and

WHEREAS, homeless youth also include young adults that have been discharged from foster care or other state custodial systems and lack the financial or emotional means to transition to independence successfully; and

WHEREAS, runaway and homeless youth that are between 12 and 24 years of age have very little access to essential support; and

WHEREAS, providing safe, stable and permanent housing for runaway and homeless youth is a family, community, state and national priority; and

WHEREAS, the future well-being of our State depends on the value we place on our youth and on our actions to provide at-risk youth in the state with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and support they need to find and maintain stable housing and develop into healthy, thriving adults;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

NOVEMBER 2019
AS
RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH MONTH

in New Jersey.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this ninth day of October in the year two thousand nineteen, the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR