



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4897/1  
CMH:emw

## 2017 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 92

January 5, 2018 - Introduced by Representatives SARGENT, SINICKI, HEBL, ANDERSON, POPE, BERCEAU, C. TAYLOR, SUBECK, SPREITZER, SHANKLAND, CONSIDINE, ZEPNICK and FIELDS, cosponsored by Senators CARPENTER, L. TAYLOR and RINGHAND. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** proclaiming November 2017 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 because their parents are unable or  
8     unwilling to 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

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

1           Whereas, a January 2016 point-in-time study conducted by the United States  
2 Department of Housing and Urban Development found that 4,113 children across  
3 the country were homeless or housing insecure in a single night; and

4           Whereas, according to the Department of Public Instruction's data on homeless  
5 children and youth in Wisconsin, 2,160 enrolled students are homeless and  
6 unaccompanied, and 18,592 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 investment for 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 2017 as Runaway Prevention  
23 Month in the state of Wisconsin; and, be it further

