



State of Wisconsin  
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4799/1  
CMH:amn

## 2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 73

November 8, 2019 - Introduced by Senators OLSEN, CARPENTER, BEWLEY, LARSON and L. TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives SNYDER, SARGENT, ANDERSON, BOWEN, CONSIDINE, DITTRICH, EMERSON, HESSELBEIN, KULP, MILROY, MURSAU, PETRYK, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK, TAUCHEN, C. TAYLOR, VINING, VRUWINK and BROSTOFF. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

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

11           Whereas, runaway youth are often homeless and unaccompanied, lack a fixed,  
12    regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and are not in the physical custody of a  
13    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 senate, the assembly 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

