



WHEREAS, over 1.5 million school-aged young people in the United States experience homelessness, and nearly 23,000 youth in Colorado are without a fixed, regular, nighttime residence; and

WHEREAS, at least 800 unaccompanied youth in Colorado are in need of housing; and

WHEREAS, youth of color are disproportionately likely to experience homelessness when compared to the total population of Colorado, and almost half of all youth who are homeless reported first experiencing homelessness with a parent or guardian; and

WHEREAS, young people who experience mobility due to homelessness are at an increased risk of dropping out of school as these students may lack access to social and economic supports that provide opportunity to post-secondary education options; and

WHEREAS, the value of education is critical to ending the cycle of homelessness, and a student who does not graduate is 346 percent more likely to experience homelessness as an adult; and

WHEREAS, Colorado was the first state to appoint higher education homeless liaisons, also known as, "single points of contact," at colleges and universities across the state who are committed to helping students experiencing homelessness successfully navigate their higher education; and

WHEREAS, State agencies and service providers are committed to working together to address the issue of youth homelessness, and be inclusive of the youth voice in formulating solutions; and

WHEREAS, Colorado will continue all efforts to lower the rate of youth homelessness, thereby ensuring every young person has access to the supports that lead to a productive and fulfilling life;

Therefore, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby proclaim November 2019 as,

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of November, 2019



Jared Polis
Jared Polis
Governor