

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the family—serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support—is the very foundation of our communities and our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves a safe, supportive, and permanent family, and every family should have the support of a strong and caring community, especially in cases where kin have opened their homes to care for a child in lieu of parental care; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, there are an estimated 2.5 million children being raised by relatives or kin. In Pennsylvania alone, more than 200,000 children live with kinship caregivers; and

WHEREAS, kinship families refer to caregivers—grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, adult siblings, and even family friends—who make the selfless choice to take on traditional parenting responsibilities, often unexpectedly, and help children and families thrive and maintain family connections; and

WHEREAS, kinship caregivers who open their hearts and homes to children whose families are in crisis play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect, thereby launching young people into successful adulthood; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania continues to recognize the inherent strengths of kinship caregivers and is dedicated to assisting kinship caregivers in using those strengths to provide safety, protection, and stability for the children they are raising; and

WHEREAS, numerous individuals and public and private organizations work to increase awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care, as well as highlight the enduring and valuable contributions of foster kinship caregivers and informal kinship caregivers.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 2025 to be

KINSHIP CARE MONTH

I call on all Pennsylvanians to celebrate and support our Commonwealth's kinship caregivers and to recognize their sacrifices and invaluable contributions.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this nineteenth day of August two thousand twenty-five, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred fiftieth.

Governor Josh Shapiro