



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Joint State Government Commission

Room 108 Finance Building, 613 North Street

Harrisburg, PA 17120

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Report Summary in response to House Resolution 390 of 2018

GRANDFAMILIES IN PENNSYLVANIA:

“The Second Time Around”

In April 2018, House Resolution No. 390 directed the Joint State Government Commission to study the trends of grandfamilies in Pennsylvania and to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

In the past three decades, a growing number of children have found themselves in a position where they reside with their grandparents and are effectively being raised by them.

The report includes a review of the available data; explores barriers, gaps, and unintended consequences for grandparent caregivers in the current U.S. policy; and traces the recent developments in grass-roots advocacy as well as the actions taken at the state level.

The report contains an analysis of the reasons children are placed in the care of grandparents and great-grandparents, including the impact of the opioid epidemic; economic, social, legal, and emotional challenges facing grandfamilies and possible ways to address these challenges; and psychological and emotional well-being of children raised by grandparents.

The report incorporates a detailed description of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging Caregiver Support Program (CSP), which is intended to alleviate the stresses associated with caregiving.

The report includes several recommendations aimed at minimizing the number of cases when grandparents find themselves in a position where they feel impelled to assume primary caregiving responsibilities for their children; at removing barriers that stand in the way of grandparents who are generally able and willing to step up and take care of their grandchildren when such a need arises; and at finding ways to afford support and assistance to grandparent caregivers who are already raising their children, which would relieve their burden and improve children’s outcomes.