
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 956 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY KEEFER, BURNS, DONATUCCI, RYAN, TOEPEL, MOUL,
ZABEL, HANBIDGE, BROWN, KAUFFMAN, HOHENSTEIN, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, MACKENZIE, FREEMAN, SCHMITT, HILL-EVANS, LONGIETTI,
MILLARD, PASHINSKI, SONNEY, McNEILL, SANCHEZ, ZIMMERMAN,
NEILSON, STRUZZI AND HICKERNELL, JULY 30, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JULY 30, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing August 31, 2020, as "International Overdose
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Addiction is a medical disease resulting from
4 substance use disorder; and

5 WHEREAS, "International Overdose Awareness Day" aims to raise
6 awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related
7 deaths; and

8 WHEREAS, Recognizing "International Overdose Awareness Day"
9 acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering
10 individuals who have died or suffered permanent injury as a
11 result of a drug overdose; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2018, 4,491 overdose deaths occurred in this
13 Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 12 people died of drug-related
15 overdoses each day in 2018 in this Commonwealth, with thousands
16 more affected by addiction either personally or through family,

1 friends and loved ones; and

2 WHEREAS, The establishment and continued work of the
3 Commonwealth's Opioid Command Center since January 2018 has
4 advanced the education, outreach and interagency coordination in
5 combating the substance use and overdose epidemic in this
6 Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs has
8 partnered with local entities to implement warm hand-off to
9 treatment protocols which have connected more than 11,500
10 individuals to date to substance use disorder treatment
11 immediately following an overdose; and

12 WHEREAS, The day's theme, "Time to Remember, Time to Act," is
13 meant to encourage further discussion and implement new policies
14 and remove barriers to address the evolving need for support and
15 resources relating to substance use disorder; and

16 WHEREAS, "International Overdose Awareness Day" provides an
17 opportunity for this Commonwealth to send a strong message to
18 individuals suffering from substance use disorder that they are
19 valued; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize August
21 31, 2020, as "International Overdose Awareness Day" in
22 Pennsylvania; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives join in the
24 global effort to support individuals, families and friends
25 affected by overdose; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That, in an effort to raise awareness and encourage
27 discussion about disease prevalence and overdose prevention, the
28 House of Representatives recognizes that substance use disorder
29 is a public health crisis that impacts everyone throughout this
30 Commonwealth.