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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1027 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, D. COSTA, DiGIROLAMO, GAINNEY, VEREB,  
CALTAGIRONE, SAYLOR, PAYNE, SCHLOSSBERG, V. BROWN, WATSON,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, REGAN, DRISCOLL, BARRAR, LONGIETTI, KINSEY,  
KIRKLAND, BOBACK, GIBBONS, YOUNGBLOOD, ROZZI, TOEPEL, SAVAGE  
AND HARHAI, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President and the Congress of the United States to  
2 restore \$483 million of the Substance Abuse Prevention and  
3 Treatment Block Grant funding for state and local governments  
4 to restore the prevention and treatment programs that fight  
5 every day to bring health and recovery to individuals  
6 battling substance abuse.

7 WHEREAS, One thousand Americans are dying every week of drug  
8 overdoses, the worst overdose epidemic in the history of  
9 humanity; and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 2,400 Pennsylvanians died of drug  
11 overdoses in 2014 and approximately 3,500 Pennsylvanians died of  
12 drug overdoses in 2015; and

13 WHEREAS, Each one of these unnecessary deaths represents  
14 another shattered family of every demographic sentenced to a  
15 lifetime of heartache and grief; and

16 WHEREAS, With the explosion of prescription drug, heroin and  
17 methamphetamine abuse, our communities are suffering terribly  
18 with unnecessary death and crime; and

1       WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Health  
2 and Human Services, resources that are currently provided are  
3 only about 10% of the amount needed to adequately treat and  
4 prevent substance abuse, leaving society vulnerable to one  
5 epidemic after another; and

6       WHEREAS, Over the past decade, as the nation has descended  
7 into the worst overdose epidemic in all of history, the Federal  
8 Government has cut funding to the Substance Abuse Prevention and  
9 Treatment Block Grant, which funds treatment and prevention  
10 according to each state's needs, by 26% or \$483 million; and

11       WHEREAS, Empty gestures, including passing more laws  
12 addressing substance abuse without adequate funding, only result  
13 in many thousands more lives lost, more crimes and more  
14 suffering families; and

15       WHEREAS, If adequate resources are provided, treatment and  
16 prevention work; therefore be it

17       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress  
19 of the United States to restore \$483 million of the Substance  
20 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funding for state and  
21 local governments to restore the prevention and treatment  
22 programs that fight every day to bring health and recovery to  
23 individuals battling substance abuse.