A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of July 26 through 30, 2021, as "Construction Opioids Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, Opioids are deadly and are responsible for claiming approximately 450,000 American lives between 1999 and 2017; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2018 alone, there were 67,367 deaths involving opioids; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted daily life and harmed those with substance-use disorder, leading to a 38% increase in opioid deaths; and

5 WHEREAS, While Pennsylvanians are still recovering from 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic is still sweeping across our country, now is not the time to forget about the opioid epidemic; and

6 WHEREAS, The Governor has declared the epidemic of heroin and opioid addiction to be a Statewide disaster emergency; and

7 WHEREAS, The construction industry, which involves physically demanding labor and employs an aging workforce, has been particularly vulnerable to the opioid epidemic; and

8 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Pennsylvania, Senate Resolution

9 No. 149 Session of 2021

10 INTRODUCED BY KANE, BARTOLOTTA, TARTAGLIONE, BROWNE, KEARNEY, HUGHES, FONTANA, SAVAL, COMITTA, FITTMAN, SANTARSIERO, YUDICHAK, SCHWANK, COSTA, STREET, COLLETT, MENSCH, MASTRIANO AND J. WARD, JULY 7, 2021

11 REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JULY 7, 2021

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WHEREAS, Drug abuse issues in the construction industry endanger not only the individual worker but the companies they work for, other workers on the jobsite and the general public near jobsites; and

WHEREAS, The summer months are the busiest months for the construction industry and are an ideal time for promoting awareness of the dangers of opioid abuse in the industry; and

WHEREAS, The Keystone Contractors Association has partnered with the National Safety Council to create an educational toolbox for members of the construction industry, including materials to facilitate discussions with workers about the dangers of opioids and prescription drug abuse, and "Warn Me" stickers to place on workers' insurance cards in the hopes of encouraging health care providers to discuss opioid issues with those workers; and

WHEREAS, The following groups plan to promote the awareness and dangers of opioids and prescription drug abuse within the construction industry during the last full week in July:

American Subcontractors Association of Central Pennsylvania and the General Building Contractors Association; therefore be it RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of July 26 through 30, 2021, as "Construction Opioids Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further RESOLVED, That the construction industry in Pennsylvania be encouraged to promote awareness of the dangers of opioids and prescription drug abuse with workers in the industry and facilitate discussions and events such as "Drug Take Back" events to combat the opioid and prescription drug abuse epidemic in Pennsylvania's construction industry.