

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 892 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BURNS, READSHAW, BULLOCK, GAINES, HEFFLEY,
GODSHALL, ROTHMAN, WARNER, McNEILL, TAYLOR, NEILSON, SAYLOR,
MARSICO AND A. HARRIS, MAY 18, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 18, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the Congress of the United States to urge the Food
2 and Drug Administration to reverse its directive allowing
3 OxyContin to be prescribed to children 11 to 16 years of age.

4 WHEREAS, Addiction is a primary, chronic and relapsing brain
5 disease that causes the addict to pursue reward or relief by
6 substance use and other behaviors; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the American Society of Addiction
8 Medicine, approximately 21.5 million Americans 12 years of age
9 or older had a substance use disorder in 2014; and

10 WHEREAS, Opioids are medications that relieve pain and
11 include the lawful prescription pain relievers oxycodone,
12 hydrocodone, codeine, morphine and fentanyl as well as the
13 illicit drug heroin; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2014, approximately 1.9 million Americans had a
15 substance use disorder involving prescription pain relievers,
16 while an additional 586,000 Americans had a substance use
17 disorder involving heroin; and

18 WHEREAS, Opioid addiction resulted in 18,893 overdose deaths

1 related to prescription pain medication and 10,574 overdose
2 deaths attributed to heroin use in 2014; and

3 WHEREAS, Four out of five new heroin users first misused
4 prescription pain medication; and

5 WHEREAS, As a result, the rate of heroin overdose deaths
6 quadrupled from 2000 to 2013, with the average rate increasing
7 to approximately 37% per year during the time period of 2010 to
8 2013; and

9 WHEREAS, OxyContin is an extended-release version of the
10 opioid medicine, oxycodone, which when prescribed and used
11 properly can help manage pain; and

12 WHEREAS, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requested the
13 manufacturer of the pain management drug OxyContin to perform
14 studies evaluating safety and other important information about
15 oxycodone and OxyContin when used in pediatric patients; and

16 WHEREAS, Following the results of those studies, the FDA
17 approved OxyContin in August 2015 for children 11 to 16 years of
18 age as an alternative pain medication if pain cannot be treated
19 effectively with other medications; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
21 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania request the Congress of the United
22 States to urge the Food and Drug Administration to reverse its
23 directive allowing OxyContin to be prescribed to children 11 to
24 16 years of age.