
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 361 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, BIZZARRO, DIGIROLAMO, HILL-EVANS,
HOHENSTEIN, JAMES, KAUFER, KORTZ, KULIK, MACKENZIE, MILLARD,
NEILSON, OBERLANDER, POLINCHOCK, PYLE, READSHAW, RYAN, SAYLOR
AND WILLIAMS, MAY 30, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 30, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of July 21 through 27, 2019, as
2 "Construction Opioids Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The number of drug overdose deaths has never been
4 higher, and, in 2017, the majority of these deaths, or 68%,
5 involved opioids; and

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

8 WHEREAS, The construction industry, which involves physically
9 demanding labor and employs an older workforce, has a much
10 higher injury rate than the general industry, making it
11 vulnerable to the opioid epidemic; and

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

16 WHEREAS, The summer months are the busiest months for the

1 construction industry and are an ideal time for promoting
2 awareness of the dangers of opioid abuse in the industry; and

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

11 WHEREAS, The following groups plan to join the Keystone
12 Contractors Association and the National Safety Council in
13 promoting awareness of the dangers of opioids and prescription
14 drug abuse within the construction industry during the last full
15 week in July: NUCA Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Building and
16 Construction Trades Council, Keystone Mountain Lakes Regional
17 Council of Carpenters, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning
18 Contractors' National Association - Pennsylvania Chapter,
19 Pennsylvania Builders Exchange, Architectural Glass and Metal
20 Association, Ironworker Employers Association of Western
21 Pennsylvania, General Building Contractors Association, Master
22 Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania, National
23 Electrical Contractors Association Western Pennsylvania Chapter,
24 Mechanical Contractors Association of America - Pennsylvania
25 Chapters and Laborers International Union of North America -
26 Pennsylvania Council; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
28 week of July 21 through 27, 2019, as "Construction Opioids
29 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the construction industry in Pennsylvania be

1 encouraged to promote awareness of the dangers of opioids and
2 prescription drug abuse with workers in the industry and to
3 pledge to facilitate discussions and events such as toolbox
4 talks and drug take-back events to combat the opioid and
5 prescription drug abuse epidemic in this Commonwealth's
6 construction industry.