

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 913 Session of  
2020

INTRODUCED BY PUSKARIC, ECKER, JONES, HILL-EVANS, MURT, McNEILL,  
SONNEY, READSHAW, RYAN, HOHENSTEIN, MILLARD, MOUL, SCHLEGEL  
CULVER, BURNS, STRUZZI, NEILSON, MACKENZIE AND YOUNGBLOOD,  
JUNE 23, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, JUNE 23, 2020

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of July 27 through 31, 2020, as  
2 "Construction Opioids Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Opioids are deadly, claiming approximately 450,000  
4 American lives between 1999 and 2017 and, in 2018 alone, there  
5 were 67,367 deaths involving opioids; and

6 WHEREAS, The breathtaking number of deaths in 2018 was  
7 actually a slight improvement as it was 4% fewer than the  
8 previous year due to a lag time in reporting; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2020, while the COVID-19 epidemic sweeps across  
10 our country, now is not the time to forget about the opioid  
11 epidemic; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Drug abuse issues in the construction industry

1 endanger not only the individual worker but also the companies  
2 they work for, other workers on the job site and the general  
3 public near job sites; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, The following groups plan to join the Keystone  
16 Contractors Association and the National Safety Council in  
17 promoting awareness of the dangers of opioids and prescription  
18 drug abuse within the construction industry during the last full  
19 week in July: National Utility Contractors Association -  
20 Pennsylvania Chapter, Pennsylvania Building & Construction  
21 Trades Council, Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of  
22 Carpenters, Laborers International Union of North America -  
23 Pennsylvania Council, Sheet Metal Contractors & Air Conditioning  
24 Contractors National Association - Pennsylvania Chapter, Master  
25 Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania, National  
26 Electrical Contractors Association of Western Pennsylvania,  
27 Mechanical Contractors Association of America - Pennsylvania  
28 Chapter, Pennsylvania Builders Exchange, Architectural Glass &  
29 Metal Association, Ironworker Employers Association of Western  
30 Pennsylvania and the General Building Contractors Association;

1   therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
3   week of July 27 through 31, 2020, as "Construction Opioids  
4   Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That the construction industry in Pennsylvania be  
6   encouraged to promote awareness of the dangers of opioids and  
7   prescription drug abuse with workers in the industry and to  
8   facilitate discussions and events such as "Drug Take Back," to  
9   combat the opioid and prescription drug abuse epidemic in  
10   Pennsylvania's construction industry.