
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 149 Session of
2021

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

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JULY 7, 2021

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 American Subcontractors Association of Central Pennsylvania and
2 the General Building Contractors Association; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of July 26
4 through 30, 2021, as "Construction Opioids Awareness Week" in
5 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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