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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 17 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY BURNS, MURT, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, GAINNEY,  
READSHAW, MOUL, NEILSON, MILLARD, DEASY, McNEILL, FARRY AND  
FREEMAN, JANUARY 23, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 23, 2017

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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 20.5 million Americans 12 years of age  
9 or older had a substance use disorder in 2015; 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 2015, approximately 2 million Americans had a  
15 substance use disorder involving prescription pain relievers,  
16 while an additional 591,000 Americans had a substance use  
17 disorder involving heroin; and

1       WHEREAS, Opioid addiction resulted in 20,101 overdose deaths  
2 related to prescription pain medication and 12,990 overdose  
3 deaths attributed to heroin use in 2014; and

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

6       WHEREAS, As a result, the rate of heroin overdose deaths  
7 quadrupled from 2000 to 2013, with the average rate increasing  
8 to approximately 37% per year during the time period of 2010 to  
9 2013; and

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

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

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

21       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
22 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania request the Congress of the United  
23 States to urge the Food and Drug Administration to reverse its  
24 directive allowing OxyContin to be prescribed to children 11 to  
25 16 years of age.