
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 981 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, BIZZARRO, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DIGIROLAMO,
DOWLING, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, MACKENZIE, MARSICO,
MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON, M. QUINN, READSHAW, RYAN, WALSH,
WARD, KORTZ AND DRISCOLL, JUNE 18, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 18, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of July 22 through July 28, 2018, as
2 "Construction Opioids Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Drug overdoses claimed more than 64,000 lives in the
4 United States in 2016, more than double the number from a decade
5 earlier; 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 been
10 particularly vulnerable to the opioid epidemic; and

11 WHEREAS, Some construction companies have reported
12 experiencing issues with drug abuse on a weekly basis; and

13 WHEREAS, Business insurer CNA reports more than 15% of
14 workers in the construction industry have a substance abuse
15 problem, compared to less than 9% of workers in other
16 industries; 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 job site and the general public;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Summer is the busiest season for the construction
6 industry, and an ideal time for promoting awareness of the
7 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 workers; and

16 WHEREAS, The following groups plan to join the Keystone
17 Contractors Association and the National Safety Council in
18 promoting awareness of the dangers of opioids and prescription
19 drug abuse within the construction industry on an annual basis
20 during the last full week in July: NUCA PA Chapter, the
21 Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council, Keystone
22 Mountain Lakes Regional Council of Carpenters, SMACNA of
23 Pennsylvania, PBX, Architectural Glass & Metal Association,
24 Ironworker Employers Association of Western Pennsylvania and the
25 General Building Contractors Association; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
27 week of July 22 through July 28, 2018, as "Construction Opioids
28 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the
30 construction industry to promote awareness of the dangers of

1 opioids and prescription drug abuse with workers in the industry
2 and facilitate discussions and events to combat the opioid and
3 prescription drug abuse epidemic in this Commonwealth's
4 construction industry.