
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 90 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, KORTZ, BIZZARRO, READSHAW,
SONNEY, CALTAGIRONE, LONGIETTI, BURNS, SCHLOSSBERG,
DIGIROLAMO, PASHINSKI, MURT, YOUNGBLOOD, MEHAFFIE, MILLARD,
JONES, STRUZZI, OBERLANDER, FREEMAN, DRISCOLL, NEILSON,
McCLINTON, SAYLOR, CIRESI, HENNESSEY, MARKOSEK, MULLINS, SIMS
AND KINSEY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 19, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 6, 2019, as "Black Balloon Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Black Balloon Day" is a national event originally
4 organized by Diane and Lauren Hurley in remembrance of Greg
5 Tremblay, a father of four and brother-in-law of Lauren, who
6 died of a drug overdose at 38 years of age on March 6, 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental
8 deaths in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, For the first time in United States history, the
10 odds of dying from an accidental opioid overdose are greater
11 than dying in a motor vehicle crash; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania experienced 5,456 drug-related overdose
13 deaths in 2017, which represents a 65% increase in drug-related
14 overdose deaths between 2015 and 2017; and

15 WHEREAS, Increased fentanyl availability and misuse

1 significantly contributed to the overall increase in drug-
2 related overdose deaths in Pennsylvania in recent years; and

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a rate of 43 drug-related overdose
4 deaths per 100,000 people, which far exceeds the national
5 average of 22 deaths per 100,000 people; and

6 WHEREAS, A recent report prepared by the Drug Enforcement
7 Administration's Philadelphia Field Division, in collaboration
8 with the University of Pittsburgh, found the implementation of
9 legislation influencing prescription opioid prescribing in this
10 Commonwealth has already resulted in a decrease in opioid
11 availability; and

12 WHEREAS, The aforementioned report further found that
13 multidisciplinary efforts bridging public health and public
14 safety have also resulted in documented progress in some
15 Pennsylvania counties; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to raising awareness of the alarming
17 rate of drug-related overdose deaths in this Commonwealth, it is
18 crucial to bring attention to the support and resources
19 available to individuals, families, caregivers and communities
20 to help address and cope with the opioid epidemic; and

21 WHEREAS, On April 18, 2018, a standing order was issued by
22 the Secretary of Health to expand access to Naloxone, an opioid
23 overdose reversal medication, to family and friends of
24 individuals at risk of experiencing drug overdoses; and

25 WHEREAS, There are several loss and grief support groups
26 located in counties across this Commonwealth available for those
27 who have experienced the loss of a loved one to a drug overdose;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, "Black Balloon Day" presents an opportunity for
30 friends and families nationwide to recognize and remember those

1 lost to drug addiction by tying black balloons outside their
2 homes and businesses to raise awareness of drug-related overdose
3 deaths; and

4 WHEREAS, Participants hope the black balloons will encourage
5 conversations about the dangers of opioid misuse and overdose
6 and the devastation it causes to individuals and their loved
7 ones; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize March
9 6, 2019, as "Black Balloon Day" in Pennsylvania.