
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 691 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, KIM, DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, MURT,
FREEMAN, KORTZ, SONNEY, HOHENSTEIN, JONES, BURNS, MILLARD,
POLINCHOCK, ULLMAN, PASHINSKI, HOWARD, KINSEY, ROEBUCK,
YOUNGBLOOD AND CONKLIN, JANUARY 30, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, JANUARY 30, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 6, 2020, 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 4,491 drug-related overdose
13 deaths in 2018 that were ruled accidental or undetermined, which
14 represents a rate of 35 deaths per 100,000 people age 0 to 99
15 among individual counties; and

16 WHEREAS, Between 2015 and 2018, there was a 36% increase in
17 the number of drug-related overdose deaths in Pennsylvania; and

1 WHEREAS, Increased fentanyl availability and misuse
2 significantly contributed to the overall increase in drug-
3 related overdose deaths in Pennsylvania in recent years; and

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, A standing order was issued by the United States
20 Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Surgeon
21 General to expand access to Naloxone, an opioid overdose
22 reversal medication, to family and friends of individuals at
23 risk of experiencing drug overdoses; and

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

28 WHEREAS, "Black Balloon Day" presents an opportunity for
29 friends and families nationwide to recognize and remember those
30 lost to drug addiction by tying black balloons outside their

1 homes and businesses to raise awareness of drug-related overdose
2 deaths; and

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

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize March
8 6, 2020, as "Black Balloon Day" in Pennsylvania.