
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 345 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY YUDICHAK, KILLION, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, ARGALL,
FARNESE, MENSCH, BREWSTER, PITTMAN, SCAVELLO AND TARTAGLIONE,
JULY 13, 2020

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JULY 13, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of July 27 through 31, 2020, 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 2018; and

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

7 WHEREAS, The breathtaking number of deaths in 2018 was
8 actually a decrease, as it was 4% fewer than the previous year;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 2020, while the COVID-19 epidemic sweeps across
11 our country, Pennsylvanians should not forget about the opioid
12 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 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 during the last full
20 week in July: National Utility Contractors Association -
21 Pennsylvania Chapter, Pennsylvania Building & Construction
22 Trades Council, Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of
23 Carpenters, Laborers International Union of North America -
24 Pennsylvania Council, Sheet Metal Contractors & Air Conditioning
25 Contractors National Association - Pennsylvania Chapter, Master
26 Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania, National
27 Electrical Contractors Association of Western Pennsylvania,
28 Mechanical Contractors Association of America - Pennsylvania
29 Chapter, Pennsylvania Builders Exchange, Architectural Glass &
30 Metal Association, Ironworker Employers Association of Western

1 Pennsylvania and the General Building Contractors Association;
2 therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of July 27
4 through 31, 2020, 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.