
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 167 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, BROWNE, MARTIN, FONTANA, BARTOLOTTA,
MENSCH, MUTH AND COSTA, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2021 as "Drug-Free Pain
2 Management Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Prescription opioid use and abuse leading to
4 addiction and catastrophic outcomes has become a national
5 crisis; and

6 WHEREAS, The leading cause of injury death in the United
7 States is drug overdose and a majority of the deaths involve an
8 opioid; and

9 WHEREAS, From 1999 to 2019, nearly 500,000 people died in the
10 United States from overdoses related to prescription opioids;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The United States is losing 136 people a day from
13 opioid overdoses; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2019, 49,860 people died from opioid overdoses in
15 the United States, which is 70.6% of all drug overdose deaths;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The total economic burden of prescription opioid
18 misuse alone in the United States is estimated around \$78.5

1 billion a year, including the costs of health care, lost
2 productivity, addiction treatment and criminal justice
3 involvement; and

4 WHEREAS, Prescription opioids are often recommended for low
5 back, neck and musculoskeletal pain management; and

6 WHEREAS, Over 100 million people suffer with chronic pain and
7 an estimated 80% of all Americans will experience some form of
8 back pain during their lifetime; and

9 WHEREAS, Doctors of chiropractic are educated and trained to
10 effectively address spinal and neuromusculoskeletal pain with
11 nonsurgical, nondrug management; and

12 WHEREAS, Numerous studies, including The Lancet published in
13 March of 2018, document spinal manipulation as being effective
14 for the management of low back pain; and

15 WHEREAS, The Bulletin of the World Health Organization
16 published recommendations to manage low back pain initially with
17 nonpharmaceutical interventions, such as spinal manipulation by
18 chiropractic adjustments, while avoiding opioids, spinal
19 injections and surgery; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of September
21 2021 as "Drug-Free Pain Management Awareness Month" in
22 Pennsylvania to raise public awareness that chiropractic care is
23 a primary first-line, nonpharmacologic approach to safely and
24 effectively relieve acute, subacute and chronic pain.