
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 449 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY DAVIS, NEILSON, DEAN, DIGIROLAMO, THOMAS,
HENNESSEY, SAINATO, FRANKEL, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KINSEY,
PASHINSKI, MURT, PHILLIPS-HILL, LONGIETTI, TOOHIL, ROZZI,
MILLARD, SCHWEYER, WARREN, KIRKLAND, WATSON, McNEILL,
DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, GILLEN, CALTAGIRONE AND MARSICO,
AUGUST 30, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 30, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing August 31, 2017, as "International Overdose
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "International Overdose Awareness Day" began in 2001
4 and has since been recognized by advocates, community
5 organizations, health care providers and government agencies
6 across the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia; and

7 WHEREAS, Participants of this global event aim to commemorate
8 individuals who have lost their lives to a drug overdose, raise
9 awareness that the tragedy of overdose death is preventable and
10 reduce the stigma of drug-related death; and

11 WHEREAS, The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime reports
12 that globally there are approximately 190,000 premature drug-
13 related deaths each year, the majority of which are attributable
14 to the use of opioids; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States accounts for approximately one-

1 quarter of the estimated number of drug-related deaths
2 worldwide, including overdose deaths, which continue to rise;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths in the United States, which are
5 mostly driven by opioids, more than tripled during the period of
6 1999 through 2015, from 16,849 to 52,404 annually; and

7 WHEREAS, According to preliminary data compiled by the New
8 York Times, drug overdose deaths in 2016 most likely exceeded
9 59,000, marking it the largest annual increase ever recorded in
10 the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is in the midst of an
12 unprecedented epidemic of drug abuse and drug-related overdose
13 deaths, impacting every corner of the State and all of its
14 residents; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2016, 4,642 drug-related overdose deaths were
16 reported by Pennsylvania coroners and medical examiners, an
17 increase of 37% from 2015; and

18 WHEREAS, Approximately 13 people died of a drug-related
19 overdose each day in 2016 in this Commonwealth, with thousands
20 more affected by addiction either personally or through family,
21 friends and loved ones; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize August
23 31, 2017, as "International Overdose Awareness Day" in
24 Pennsylvania by joining in the global effort to support current
25 and former drug users along with family members who have lost
26 their loved ones to a drug overdose and encouraging discussion
27 about overdose prevention and drug policy.