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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 142 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY KANE, KEARNEY, CAPPELLETTI, FONTANA, HUGHES,  
LAUGHLIN, SCHWANK, HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE, ARGALL, DILLON,  
BREWSTER, MASTRIANO, SANTARSIERO, COSTA, COMMITTA AND MILLER,  
JUNE 30, 2023

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 30, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating August 31, 2023, as "Overdose Awareness Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Drug addiction is a chronic disease characterized by  
4 compulsive or difficult-to-control drug use despite harmful  
5 consequences; and

6 WHEREAS, Drug addiction is seen by both the Centers for  
7 Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization  
8 as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too easily lead to  
9 overdose and death; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2021, 106,699 individuals died from drug  
11 overdoses in the United States, according to the Centers for  
12 Disease Control and Prevention; and

13 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania alone, in 2021, 5,331 people died  
14 from drug overdoses, according to the Department of Health; and

15 WHEREAS, For every drug overdose that results in death there  
16 are many more nonfatal overdoses, each taking an emotional and  
17 economic toll on the individual, their family and the community

1 at large; and

2 WHEREAS, Drug addiction can fuel feelings of shame, guilt,  
3 embarrassment, depression and hopelessness, causing individuals  
4 to resist seeking treatment and support; and

5 WHEREAS, "Overdose Awareness Day" is a global event held on  
6 August 31 of each year that aims to raise awareness of drug  
7 overdoses, to reduce the stigma of a drug-related death and to  
8 acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering  
9 those who have died or who have had a permanent injury as a  
10 result of a drug overdose; and

11 WHEREAS, Recognizing "Overdose Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania  
12 sends a strong message to former or current substance users that  
13 they are valued and that overdose death is preventable;  
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate August 31, 2023, as  
16 "Overdose Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to raise awareness of  
17 overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death; and be  
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Governor be respectfully requested to  
20 order flags be flown at half-staff and to issue a proclamation  
21 calling upon public officials and the residents of this  
22 Commonwealth to observe "Overdose Awareness Day" with  
23 appropriate activities and programs.