



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Ironworker Employers Association of Western Pennsylvania, Inc.
(IWEA) Assists in Creating a Resolution to Bring Awareness
to Opioid Usage by Construction Workers**

Pittsburgh, PA — Pennsylvania House of Representatives unanimously supported a resolution declaring the last full week of July as “Construction Opioid Awareness Week.” Ironworker Employers Association of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. worked with construction associations and labor organizations across the Commonwealth to launch this initiative.

“The opioid epidemic in our nation has been created by an unfortunate combination of people with a desperate need for pain relief and an industry (Big Healthcare/Big Pharma) poised to capitalize on those conditions with medication that exploits addictive tendencies in patients. Our industry can be physically demanding and can result in a variety of injuries which can be chronic and require pain management,” Dave Daquelente, Executive Director, IWEA said. “For too many years people in the construction industry have sought relief from pain but have been prescribed medication that has significant addictive properties and side effects that can create more problems than what they truly solve. Education and awareness are critical steps that our industry needs to reach those already impacted and prevent additional people, families and communities from being destroyed.”

House Resolution 981 designates the last full week of July as “Construction Opioid Awareness Week” in Pennsylvania. This resolution states the problem and suggests that construction companies promote awareness of the problem and potential solutions. Our organization plans to make resources available to our members and we will encourage each member to participate in a toolbox talk on opioids during this week.

ABOUT (IWEA)

The Ironworker Employers Association of Western Pennsylvania is an association of Union Contractors who work in all aspects of the Ironworking trade within the construction industry.

Our Regular Contractor Members have diverse specialties within the industry, and we also have Associate and Affiliate members who provide various services to our Regular members and throughout the construction industry.

The goal of our Association is to provide information and training to our members so that they can be the best contractors this industry has to offer. We achieve this goal by keeping our members updated on current safety issues and training, new techniques and equipment, legislative matters and other news and items pertinent to the industry. This allows our Members to focus on their primary goals, which include quality work performed safely and ultimate profitability.

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