

By: Representatives Boyd, Bentley, Magie, D. Ferguson, G. Hodges

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED COLLABORATION BETWEEN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, AND THE ARKANSAS COMMUNITY IN BATTLING THE ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED COLLABORATION BETWEEN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, AND THE ARKANSAS COMMUNITY IN BATTLING THE ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, in 2010, Arkansas had the 25th highest drug overdose mortality rate in the United States, with 12.5 per 100,000 people suffering drug overdose fatalities and prescription drugs are most frequently named in drug-related death certificates; and

WHEREAS, prescription drug overdoses account for at least one death per day in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the number of drug overdose deaths in Arkansas, a majority of which are from prescription drugs, has more than doubled since 1999 when the rate was 4.4 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas ranks 5th in the nation in the percentage of people 12 years of age or older who used prescription pain relievers for nonmedical



purposes in 2012-2013, with 22% of high school students taking prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription in 2008; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Arkansas had the nation's 12th highest rate of prescription painkillers sold; and

WHEREAS, the misuse of prescription drugs can have dire consequences and the rapid rise of abuse requires a full-scale response from health care providers, law enforcement, educators, public officials, and the Arkansas community; and

WHEREAS, the people of Arkansas have a duty to educate our communities, protect our medications at home, properly dispose of unwanted or unneeded medications, promote responsible prescribing and dispensing of prescription medications, encourage proper safeguarding of prescription medication inventories, and help those struggling to overcome prescription drug addictions,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives encourages the continued collaboration between health providers, law enforcement, educators, public officials, and the Arkansas community in battling the abuse of prescription drugs in Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon its adoption a copy of this resolution be presented by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to: Diane Skaggs, executive director of the Mental Health Council of Arkansas; Dr. Carol Baxter, executive director of Recovery Centers of Arkansas; Dr. Bradley Diner, Program Coordinator of the Arkansas Medical Foundation; Dr. Michael Mancino, Associate Professor Program for the Department of Psychiatry, and Director of the Center for Addiction Services and Treatment at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; Dr. Carlos Roman, Chief of Pain Management at St. Vincent Infirmery and Chair of Arkansas State

Medical Board Pain Committee; Laurie A. Reh, Arkansas Region 1 Prevention Service Representative; Hayse Miller, Arkansas Region 8 Prevention Service Representative; the Arkansas Drug Director's office; the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care; the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement; the Arkansas Hospital Association; the Arkansas State Medical Board; the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy; the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners; the Arkansas State Board of Nursing; and the Arkansas State Board of Optometry.