

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H1/12/17

HR 1003

By: Representative Boyd

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED COLLABORATION BETWEEN
HEALTHCARE 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 HEALTHCARE 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 twelve and five-tenths (12.5) per one hundred thousand (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 (1) 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 four and four-tenths (4.4) per one hundred thousand (100,000) people; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas ranks 5th in the nation in the percentage of people



twelve (12) years of age or older who used prescription pain relievers for nonmedical purposes in 2012-2013, with twenty-two percent(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 healthcare 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 NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives encourages the continued collaboration between healthcare 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:

(1) Diane S. Skaggs, Executive Director of the Mental Health Council of Arkansas;

(2) Dr. Carol Baxter, Executive Director of Recovery Centers of Arkansas;

(3) Dr. Bradley Diner, Medical Director of the Arkansas Medical Foundation;

(4) Dr. Michael J. Mancino, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Program Director for the Substance Abuse Treatment Clinic at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

(4) Dr. Carlos Roman, Director of Pain Management at St. Vincent Health System and Chair of the Arkansas State Medical Board Pain Management Review Committee;

(5) Laurie A. Reh, Arkansas Region 1 Prevention Service Representative;

(6) Hayse Miller, Arkansas Region 8 Prevention Service Representative;

(7) Denny Altes, Arkansas State Drug Director;

(8) The Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care;

(9) The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement;

(10) The Arkansas Hospital Association;

(11) The Attorney General;

(12) The Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police;

(13) The Arkansas Sheriffs' Association;

(14) The Arkansas State Medical Board;

(15) The Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy;

(16) The Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners;

(17) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing;

(18) The Arkansas State Board of Optometry; and

(19) The Criminal Justice Institute within the University of Arkansas System.

/s/Boyd