

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H1/28/19 H1/30/19 H2/4/19*
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

HCR 1003

By: Representatives Boyd, Vaught

By: Senator K. Hammer

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

WHEREAS, in 2016, Arkansas had the 37th highest drug-related fatalities rate in the United States with a drug overdose death rate of *fourteen (14) per one hundred thousand (100,000) people; and*

WHEREAS, in 2017, four hundred and sixteen (416) deaths occurred in Arkansas as a result of all types of drug overdoses; 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 ranked 3rd in the nation in nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers in the past year among people twelve (12) years of age or older in 2012-2014; and

WHEREAS, nineteen *and three-tenths* percent (19.3%) of high school students *were taking* prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use the prescription drug in 2017; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Arkansas was ranked 2nd for the amount of opioids prescribed *in a state* with one hundred five and four-tenths (105.4) opioid prescriptions for every one hundred (100) persons; and

WHEREAS, the national average for the amount of opioids prescribed is fifty-eight and seven-tenths (58.7) opioid prescriptions for every one hundred (100) persons; 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 drugs at home, properly dispose of unwanted or unneeded drugs, promote responsible prescribing and dispensing of prescription drugs, encourage proper safeguarding of prescription drug inventories, and help those struggling to overcome prescription drug addictions,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Second General Assembly, the Senate concurring, encourage continued collaboration among

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) The Executive Director of the Mental Health Council of Arkansas, Inc.;
- (2) The Executive Director of Recovery Centers of Arkansas, Inc.;
- (3) The Medical Director of the Arkansas Medical Foundation;
- (4) The Program Director for the Substance Abuse Treatment Clinic at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;
- (5) The Director of Pain Management at CHI-St. Vincent Health System;
- (6) The Chair of the Arkansas State Medical Board Pain Management Review Committee;
- (7) The Arkansas Region 1 Prevention Service Representative;
- (8) The Arkansas Region 8 Prevention Service Representative;
- (9) The Arkansas Drug Director;
- (10) The Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc.;
- (11) The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement;
- (12) The Arkansas Hospital Association, Inc.;
- (13) The Attorney General;
- (14) The Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police;
- (15) The Arkansas Sheriffs' Association;
- (16) The Arkansas State Medical Board;
- (17) The Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy;
- (18) The Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners;
- (19) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing;
- (20) The State Board of Optometry;
- (21) The Department of Health;
- (22) The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Advisory Committee;
- (23) *The Arkansas Board of Podiatric Medicine;*
- (24) *The Office of Medicaid Inspector General;*

- (25) *The Speakup About Drugs organization; and*
- (26) *The Criminal Justice Institute within the University of Arkansas system.*

/s/Boyd