

By: Senator Rapert

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO PROCLAIM "SAVE AR STUDENTS WEEK" AND RAISE PUBLIC
AWARENESS ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC.

Subtitle

TO PROCLAIM "SAVE AR STUDENTS WEEK" AND
RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE
AND THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC.

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic in the United States has affected many individuals living in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2017 Arkansas had the second-highest opioid prescription rate in the country at a rate of 105.4% per 100 persons; and

WHEREAS, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, youth ages 18-20 are at the highest risk for illicit drug use at 22.7% and youth ages 21-25 are at the second highest rate for use; and

WHEREAS, the lives of teenagers, young adults, college students, and their families around the county have been devastated by the effects of opioid abuse; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse is an issue of great concern among four-year public universities and two-year public community colleges in the state; and

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Arkansas State



University at Jonesboro, Arkansas Tech University, the University of Central Arkansas, Henderson State University, Southern Arkansas University, the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the University of Arkansas at Monticello, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Arkansas State University - Mountain Home, Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas, East Arkansas Community College, Northwest Arkansas Community College, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, the University of Arkansas Rich Mountain, and the University of Arkansas - Pulaski Technical College are joining forces to combat substance abuse across their campuses and across the state; and

WHEREAS, these 19 campuses of higher education are locking arms for the inaugural "Save AR Students" statewide substance abuse awareness week on March 11-15, 2019; and

WHEREAS, these efforts are part of a larger movement combating the epidemic reaching communities in all parts of the nation; and

WHEREAS, addressing the increase in the over-prescription and misuse of opioids, as well as the issue of increased illicit drug use, greatly benefits the state and its residents,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate commends the effort by institutions of higher education to address the opioid epidemic and proclaims March 11-15, 2019, as "Save AR Students Week".