

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: H1/21/21 S2/1/21

HCR 1002

By: Representative Boyd

By: Senator Gilmore

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.

WHEREAS, in 2018, Arkansas had the thirty-fourth-highest drug-related fatalities rate in the United States with a drug overdose death rate of fifteen and seven-tenths (15.7) per one hundred thousand (100,000) people; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, four hundred forty-four (444) deaths occurred in Arkansas as a result of all types of drug overdoses; and

WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities are substantially more likely to suffer from substance abuse disorders at two to four (2-4) times the rate of the general population and are also less likely to receive treatment for their substance abuse; and



WHEREAS, the rate of drug overdose deaths in Arkansas, a majority of which are due to the misuse of prescription drugs, has more than tripled since 1999, when the age-adjusted rate was six and one-tenth (6.1) per one hundred thousand (100,000) people, compared to twenty-one and seven-tenths (21.7) per one hundred thousand (100,000) people in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas ranked third in the nation in nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers in the previous year among people twelve (12) years of age or older in 2012-2014; and

WHEREAS, *in 2019, seventeen and nine-tenths percent (17.9%) of surveyed Arkansas high school students reported taking prescription drugs either without a doctor's prescription or differently than as prescribed; and*

WHEREAS, *in 2019, Arkansas ranked second among the states for the quantity of opioids prescribed, with eighty and nine-tenths (80.9) opioid prescriptions for every one hundred (100) persons; and*

WHEREAS, *in 2019, the national average for the amount of opioids prescribed was forty-six and seven-tenths (46.7) opioid prescriptions for every one hundred (100) persons; and*

WHEREAS, the misuse of prescription drugs can have dire consequences, and the rapid rise in prescription drug abuse in the state 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-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Third 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 of the University of

Arkansas.

/s/Boyd