

By: Representative Vaught

By: Senator B. Johnson

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENCOURAGE
THE USE OF UNIT DOSE PACKAGING FOR NARCOTICS AND
OPIOIDS TO PRESERVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL
CITIZENS OF THIS NATION.

Subtitle

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TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF UNIT DOSE
PACKAGING FOR NARCOTICS AND OPIOIDS TO
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CITIZENS OF THIS NATION.

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, in recent years the pharmaceutical industry has responded to an increased demand for drug products which are packaged for "unit dose" dispensing or the delivery of a single dose of a drug to the patient at the time of administration; and

WHEREAS, the drug product is dispensed in a unit dose container which is a non-reusable container designed to hold a quantity of drug intended for administration as a single dose, directly from the container; and



WHEREAS, the advantages of unit dose dispensing are that the drug is fully identifiable and the integrity of the dosage form is protected until the actual moment of administration; and

WHEREAS, unit dose packaging for narcotics and other opioids, especially narcotics and opioids affecting memory and cognition, would improve patient compliance, reduce misuse of the prescription drugs, and prevent overdoses and diversion which would save lives across the nation; and

WHEREAS, encouraging unit dose packaging of narcotics and opioids is practical and patient-friendly and may reduce medication waste for manufacturers of prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration should take action to preserve the health and safety of all citizens of this nation,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, the Senate concurring, encourages the United States Congress, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to encourage the use of unit dose packaging for narcotics and opioids by the pharmaceutical industry to preserve the health and safety of all citizens of this nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the United States Food and Drug Administration, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the majority leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Arkansas congressional delegation.