

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To encourage the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to revise survey measures included in the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems that relate to patient pain management.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio (the Senate concurring):

WHEREAS, Drug overdose deaths continue to be a public health crisis in Ohio with a 366 per cent increase in the number of deaths from 2000 to 2012. According to the Ohio Department of Health, in 2012, unintentional drug overdoses caused 1,914 deaths among Ohio residents. In 2012, five Ohioans died every day from an unintentional drug overdose, or one every five hours. Prescription drugs are involved in most of the unintentional drug overdoses and have largely driven the rise in deaths; and

WHEREAS, According to the Ohio Department of Health, there was an average of 67 doses of opioids dispensed for every Ohio resident; and

WHEREAS, According to the Ohio Department of Health, in addition to prescription drug overdose deaths, heroin-involved deaths have continued to increase from 16 per cent in 2008 to a high of 35.5 per cent of all drug overdoses in 2012. In a recent survey of coroners from 47 Ohio counties, representing 75 per cent of the state's population, there were 606 heroin-overdose deaths in Ohio in 2012. It has been widely reported that prescription opioids may serve as a gateway to heroin; and

WHEREAS, The State of Ohio must take steps to end this crisis, including setting appropriate expectations for patient pain relief and setting incentives for the appropriate use of prescription pain medications; and

WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, in its Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS), a survey instrument that measures patients' perceptions of their hospital experience, surveys patients on the topic of pain management and ties Medicare reimbursements to HCAHPS results; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio State Medical Association surveyed 1,100 Ohio physicians and found that 74 per cent believe that HCAHPS survey measures add to the problem of overprescribing pain medications; and

WHEREAS, Although pain management enhances the quality of life in patients suffering from acute and chronic pain, the pressure to achieve certain survey results presents incentives for health care professionals to liberally prescribe opioids; and

WHEREAS, Health care professionals and facilities should be assessed on best medical practices rather than patient perceptions; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 131st General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, call on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately

revise the HCAHPS survey measures to better address the topic of pain management and to implement these changes with all due haste; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 131st General Assembly of the State of Ohio, support the efforts of those involved in drug abuse research, education, community outreach, and prevention in order to build an environment in which alternatives to opiates are available; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the news media of Ohio.

Speaker _____ of the House of Representatives.

President _____ of the Senate.

Adopted _____, 20____