

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DECLARING DRUG OVERDOSE  
DEATHS TO BE A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Carol Spackman Moss**

Senate Sponsor: Brian E. Shiozawa

Cosponsors: Mike K. McKell Edward H. Redd  
Patrice M. Arent Marie H. Poulson  
Rebecca Chavez-Houck

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor declares drug overdose deaths in Utah to be a public health emergency and strongly urges Utah's Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Department of Public Safety to immediately direct resources to address this crisis.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ emphasizes the importance of the lives of all people living in Utah;
- ▶ recognizes Utah's high rates of overdose death compared to most states in the country;

and

- ▶ strongly urges Utah's Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Department of Public Safety to recognize this public health crisis and direct resources to reduce the number of overdose deaths in Utah.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

28           WHEREAS, the lives of all people living in Utah are precious and deeply valued;  
29           WHEREAS, the Utah drug overdose death rate represents a public health emergency;  
30           WHEREAS, the Legislature of the state of Utah and the Governor establish the priorities for  
31 funding, the use of resources, and the actions of departments of Utah state government;  
32           WHEREAS, Utah's rate of drug overdose deaths ranks fourth in the nation;  
33           WHEREAS, Utah's rate of military veteran drug overdose deaths ranks first in the nation;  
34 and  
35           WHEREAS, the number of drug-related deaths in Utah exceed the number of deaths from  
36 motor vehicle collisions and firearms:  
37           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
38 Governor concurring therein, strongly urges Utah's Department of Health, Department of Human  
39 Services, and Department of Public Safety to direct appropriate resources to reducing the number of  
40 drug overdose deaths in Utah.  
41           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Utah's Department  
42 of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Public Safety.