

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-140

2
3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE,
4 AND LABOR STUDY PATIENT ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS AND THE
5 POTENTIAL IMPACT OF ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOID ANALGESICS.
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7 WHEREAS, prescription opioids are powerful pain medications that are
8 also highly addictive; and
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10 WHEREAS, opioid dependence affects nearly five million (5,000,000)
11 people in the United States and leads to approximately seventeen thousand
12 (17,000) deaths annually; and
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14 WHEREAS, an ongoing debate revolves around the long-term use of opioids
15 in the treatment of chronic, nonmalignant pain; and
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17 WHEREAS, abuse and misuse of opioid medications remains a public health
18 challenge, with abuse rates having quadrupled from 1990 to 2000; and
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20 WHEREAS, more than seventy percent (70%) of nonmedical users obtain
21 opioids from family or friends and are seeking to achieve a "high" from
22 prescription opioids by taking an excess number of pills or by crushing the
23 pills and snorting, smoking, or injecting the new altered formulation; and
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25 WHEREAS, prescription opioids' continuation as a pain treatment and
26 their association with abuse and addiction create a need for risk mitigation
27 approaches that optimize the risk-benefit ratio; and
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29 WHEREAS, abuse-deterrent opioid analgesics have emerged as a means for
30 supporting prescription opioid access while limiting abuse and the
31 consequences of abuse; and
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33 WHEREAS, different types of abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic include
34 physical and chemical barriers to tampering, agonist-antagonist formulations,
35 aversion, prodrugs, and alternative methods of administration; and
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1 WHEREAS, each type of abuse-deterrent opioid analgesics has the
2 potential to reduce specific forms of prescription opioid abuse and
3 addiction; and
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5 WHEREAS, for numerous reasons, the State of Arkansas should strongly
6 support efforts to reduce abuse and misuse of opioid medications,
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8 NOW THEREFORE,

9 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF
10 THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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12 THAT the House Committee On Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall
13 study patient access to prescription opioids and the potential impact of
14 abuse-deterrent opioid analgesics on diversion, misuse, and abuse of
15 extended-release opioids to include without limitation:

16 (1) A review of literature, including product labeling studies,
17 examining the impact of abuse-deterrent opioid analgesics on healthcare
18 utilization, including without limitation emergency room visits,
19 hospitalizations, outpatient visits, substance-abuse treatment services,
20 pharmaceutical costs, infectious disease costs, and overall healthcare costs;

21 (2) The health insurance coverage in this state, including
22 without limitation cost-sharing requirements, prior authorization, step-
23 therapy, and other utilization management requirements, for:

24 (A) Brand name and generic opioids approved by the United
25 States Food and Drug Administration as abuse-deterrent opioid analgesics;

26 (B) Brand name and generic opioids with abuse-deterrent
27 properties which are not approved by the United States Food and Drug
28 Administration for deterrence labeling; and

29 (C) Brand name and generic opioids with nonabuse-deterrent
30 properties and other nonabuse deterrents;

31 (3) A comparison of out-of-pocket expenses for each type of
32 abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic to individuals with health insurance
33 policies in this state; and

34 (4) A summary of guidance documentation published on abuse-
35 deterrent opioid analgesics by the United States Food and Drug
36 Administration.

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BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall report its findings and submit any recommendations for legislation to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate no later than February 1, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT, upon request, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and healthcare licensing boards shall aid the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor in this study.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Justin Boyd
District 77

By: JMB/JMB