

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019

HCR 1003

4
5 By: Representatives Boyd, Vaught
6 By: Senator K. Hammer

7
8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED COLLABORATION AMONG HEALTHCARE
10 PROVIDERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATORS, PUBLIC
11 OFFICIALS, AND THE ARKANSAS COMMUNITY IN BATTLING THE
12 ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN ARKANSAS.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED COLLABORATION
17 AMONG HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, LAW
18 ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS,
19 AND THE ARKANSAS COMMUNITY IN BATTLING
20 THE ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN
21 ARKANSAS.

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23
24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
25 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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27 WHEREAS, in 2016, Arkansas had the 37th highest drug-related fatalities
28 rate in the United States with a drug overdose death rate of fourteen percent
29 (14%); and

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31 WHEREAS, in 2017, four hundred and sixteen (416) deaths occurred in
32 Arkansas as a result of all types of drug overdoses; and

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34 WHEREAS, the number of drug overdose deaths in Arkansas, a majority of
35 which are from prescription drugs, has more than doubled since 1999 when the
36 rate was four and four-tenths (4.4) per one hundred thousand (100,000)



1 people; and

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3 WHEREAS, Arkansas ranked 3rd in the nation in nonmedical use of
4 prescription pain relievers in the past year among people twelve (1) years of
5 age or older in 2012-2014; and

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7 WHEREAS, nineteen three-tenths percent (19.3%) of high school students
8 taking prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription or differently than
9 how a doctor told them to use the prescription drug in 2017; and

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11 WHEREAS, in 2017, Arkansas was ranked 2nd for the amount of opioids
12 prescribed by a state with one hundred five and four-tenths (105.4) opioid
13 prescriptions for every one hundred (100) persons; and

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15 WHEREAS, the national average for the amount of opioids prescribed is
16 fifty-eight and seven-tenths (58.7) opioid prescriptions for every one
17 hundred (100) persons; and

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19 WHEREAS, the misuse of prescription drugs can have dire consequences,
20 and the rapid rise of abuse requires a full-scale response from healthcare
21 providers, law enforcement, educators, public officials, and the Arkansas
22 community; and

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24 WHEREAS, the people of Arkansas have a duty to educate our communities,
25 protect our drugs at home, properly dispose of unwanted or unneeded drugs,
26 promote responsible prescribing and dispensing of prescription drugs,
27 encourage proper safeguarding of prescription drug inventories, and help
28 those struggling to overcome prescription drug addictions,

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30 NOW THEREFORE,

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

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34 THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Second General
35 Assembly, the Senate concurring, encourage continued collaboration among
36 healthcare providers, law enforcement, educators, public officials, and the

1 Arkansas community in battling the abuse of prescription drugs in Arkansas.

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3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, upon its adoption, a copy of this
4 resolution be presented by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
5 to:

6 (1) The Executive Director of the Mental Health Council
7 of Arkansas, Inc.;

8 (2) The Executive Director of Recovery Centers of Arkansas,
9 Inc.;

10 (3) The Medical Director of the Arkansas Medical Foundation;

11 (4) The Program Director for the Substance Abuse Treatment
12 Clinic at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

13 (5) The Director of Pain Management at CHI-St. Vincent Health
14 System;

15 (6) The Chair of the Arkansas State Medical Board Pain
16 Management Review Committee;

17 (7) The Arkansas Region 1 Prevention Service Representative;

18 (8) The Arkansas Region 8 Prevention Service Representative;

19 (9) The Arkansas Drug Director;

20 (10) The Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc.;

21 (11) The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement;

22 (12) The Arkansas Hospital Association, Inc.;

23 (13) The Attorney General;

24 (14) The Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police;

25 (15) The Arkansas Sheriffs' Association;

26 (16) The Arkansas State Medical Board;

27 (17) The Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy;

28 (18) The Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners;

29 (19) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing;

30 (20) The State Board of Optometry;

31 (21) The Department of Health;

32 (22) The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Advisory
33 Committee;

34 (23) The Arkansas Board of Podiatric Medicine; and

35 (24) The Criminal Justice Institute within the University of
36 Arkansas system.