

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

H. C. R. No. 17

Representatives Sears, Antonio

**Cosponsors: Representatives Brown, Smith, R., Butler, Amstutz, Johnson, T.,
Hackett, Blessing, Lepore-Hagan, Phillips, Boyce, Huffman, Boyd, Sprague,
Cera, Celebrezze, Driehaus, Smith, K.**

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 18
addition to prescription drug overdose deaths, heroin- 19
involved deaths have continued to increase from 16 per cent 20
in 2008 to a high of 35.5 per cent of all drug overdoses in 21
2012. In a recent survey of coroners from 47 Ohio counties, 22
representing 75 per cent of the state's population, there 23
were 606 heroin-overdose deaths in Ohio in 2012. It has been 24
widely reported that prescription opioids may serve as a 25
gateway to heroin; and 26

WHEREAS, The State of Ohio must take steps to end this 27
crisis, including setting appropriate expectations for 28
patient pain relief and setting incentives for the 29
appropriate use of prescription pain medications; and 30

WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid 31
Services, in its Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare 32
Providers and Systems (HCAHPS), a survey instrument that 33
measures patients' perceptions of their hospital experience, 34
surveys patients on the topic of pain management and ties 35
Medicare reimbursements to HCAHPS results; and 36

WHEREAS, The Ohio State Medical Association surveyed 37
1,100 Ohio physicians and found that 74 per cent believe that 38
HCAHPS survey measures add to the problem of overprescribing 39
pain medications; and 40

WHEREAS, Although pain management enhances the quality 41
of life in patients suffering from acute and chronic pain, 42
the pressure to achieve certain survey results presents 43
incentives for health care professionals to liberally 44
prescribe opioids; and 45

WHEREAS, Health care professionals and facilities should 46
be assessed on best medical practices rather than patient 47
perceptions; now therefore be it 48

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 131st General 49
Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, 50
call on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to 51
immediately revise the HCAHPS survey measures to better 52
address the topic of pain management and to implement these 53
changes with all due haste; and be it further 54

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 131st General 55
Assembly of the State of Ohio, support the efforts of those 56
involved in drug abuse research, education, community 57
outreach, and prevention in order to build an environment in 58
which alternatives to opiates are available; and be it 59
further 60

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 61
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 62
United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, the 63
Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid 64
Services, and the news media of Ohio. 65