

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015

HR 1005

4  
5 By: Representatives Boyd, Bentley, Magie, D. Ferguson, G. Hodges

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED COLLABORATION BETWEEN HEALTH  
9 CARE PROVIDERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATORS, PUBLIC  
10 OFFICIALS, AND THE ARKANSAS COMMUNITY IN BATTLING THE  
11 ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN ARKANSAS.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED COLLABORATION  
16 BETWEEN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, LAW  
17 ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS,  
18 AND THE ARKANSAS COMMUNITY IN BATTLING  
19 THE ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN  
20 ARKANSAS.

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23 WHEREAS, in 2010, Arkansas had the 25th highest drug overdose mortality  
24 rate in the United States, with 12.5 per 100,000 people suffering drug  
25 overdose fatalities and prescription drugs are most frequently named in drug-  
26 related death certificates; and

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28 WHEREAS, prescription drug overdoses account for at least one death per  
29 day in Arkansas; and

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31 WHEREAS, the number of drug overdose deaths in Arkansas, a majority of  
32 which are from prescription drugs, has more than doubled since 1999 when the  
33 rate was 4.4 per 100,000; and

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35 WHEREAS, Arkansas ranks 5th in the nation in the percentage of people  
36 12 years of age or older who used prescription pain relievers for nonmedical



1 purposes in 2012-2013, with 22% of high school students taking prescription  
2 drugs without a doctor's prescription in 2008; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 2010, Arkansas had the nation's 12th highest rate of  
5 prescription painkillers sold; and

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7 WHEREAS, the misuse of prescription drugs can have dire consequences  
8 and the rapid rise of abuse requires a full-scale response from health care  
9 providers, law enforcement, educators, public officials, and the Arkansas  
10 community; and

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12 WHEREAS, the people of Arkansas have a duty to educate our communities,  
13 protect our medications at home, properly dispose of unwanted or unneeded  
14 medications, promote responsible prescribing and dispensing of prescription  
15 medications, encourage proper safeguarding of prescription medication  
16 inventories, and help those struggling to overcome prescription drug  
17 addictions,

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19 NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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23 THAT the House of Representatives encourages the continued  
24 collaboration between health providers, law enforcement, educators, public  
25 officials, and the Arkansas community in battling the abuse of prescription  
26 drugs in Arkansas.

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon its adoption a copy of this resolution  
29 be presented by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to: Diane  
30 Skaggs, executive director of the Mental Health Council of Arkansas; Dr.  
31 Carol Baxter, executive director of Recovery Centers of Arkansas;  
32 Dr. Bradley Diner, Program Coordinator of the Arkansas Medical Foundation;  
33 Dr. Michael Mancino, Associate Professor Program for the Department of  
34 Psychiatry, and Director of the Center for Addiction Services and Treatment  
35 at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; Dr. Carlos Roman, Chief  
36 of Pain Management at St. Vincent Infirmery and Chair of Arkansas State

1 Medical Board Pain Committee; Laurie A. Reh, Arkansas Region 1 Prevention  
2 Service Representative; Hayse Miller, Arkansas Region 8 Prevention Service  
3 Representative; the Arkansas Drug Director's office; the Arkansas Foundation  
4 for Medical Care; the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement; the Arkansas  
5 Hospital Association; the Arkansas State Medical Board; the Arkansas State  
6 Board of Pharmacy; the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners; the Arkansas  
7 State Board of Nursing; and the Arkansas State Board of Optometry.

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