

## House Resolution 1592

By: Representatives Mathiak of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Taylor of the 79<sup>th</sup>, and Price of the 48<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging health insurers to provide coverage for less-addictive opioids, opioid addiction  
2 treatments, and opioid alternative treatments for patients to reduce the number of Georgians  
3 addicted to opioids; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, controlled substances are scheduled according to their relative abuse potential  
5 and likelihood of causing dependence; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Schedule III opioids carry a lower risk of abuse and lower likelihood of causing  
7 dependence than Schedule II opioids; and
- 8 WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that medication assisted treatment, which combines  
9 psychosocial treatment and FDA approved medication, is more effective than either  
10 behavioral interventions or medication alone in treating opioid use disorder; and
- 11 WHEREAS, compared to nondrug approaches, medication assisted treatment significantly  
12 reduces problematic opioid use and improves adherence to treatment; and
- 13 WHEREAS, increased community access to medication assisted treatment can reduce  
14 overdose deaths; and
- 15 WHEREAS, research has consistently demonstrated that buprenorphine, a Schedule III  
16 medication, is an effective treatment for opioid use disorder; and
- 17 WHEREAS, treatment with buprenorphine reduces the symptoms of opioid withdrawal and  
18 curbs opioid cravings by blocking the effects of other opioids and heroin; and
- 19 WHEREAS, when an appropriate dose of buprenorphine is reached, the medication has a  
20 "ceiling effect," which increases its safety profile by lowering the risk of respiratory  
21 depression and overdose; and

22 WHEREAS, the opioid overdose epidemic has cost the state millions of dollars in medical  
23 treatment, lost economic productivity, and increased overdose deaths, among other costs; and

24 WHEREAS, providing coverage for less-addictive opioids, opioid addiction treatments, and  
25 opioid alternative treatments for patients will reduce the costs borne by this state, reduce the  
26 number of Georgians who will become addicted to opioids, and reduce the number of  
27 Georgians who will overdose and die from opioid abuse.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body hereby urge health insurers to provide coverage for less-addictive  
30 opioids, opioid addiction treatments, and opioid alternative treatments for patients to reduce  
31 the number of Georgians addicted to opioids.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
33 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
34 public and the press.