

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HR 1592:

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

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

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

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