

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY SENATOR RISER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request officials in Louisiana to partner with prescribers, pharmacists, school-based organizations, and the manufacturers of branded and generic prescription medications to evaluate existing efforts at deterring prescription drug abuse, determine the effectiveness of current efforts and make recommendations to the state on best practices for combating abuse while ensuring that access is not restricted for those individuals who are in need of prescription medications.

WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse and misuse is an increasing public health concern in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a balanced approach to preventing prescription drug abuse must ensure sufficient access to medications for patients with a legitimate medical need; and

WHEREAS, prescription drugs account for the second most commonly abused category of drugs, behind marijuana and ahead of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and other drugs; and

WHEREAS, the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs has become increasingly prevalent among teens and young adults as among 12-17 year olds, prescription drug abuse took either first or second place in abuse prevalence; and

WHEREAS, while opioids, stimulants, and central nervous system depressants are properly used by millions of people, the misuse and abuse of these products are imposing increasing costs on individuals, families, and society; and

WHEREAS, the personal and financial toll of prescription drug abuse and misuse are negatively impacting the states through law enforcement constraints, drug treatment costs and incarceration costs; and

WHEREAS, efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse should not negatively impact a patient's access to necessary and prescribed drug treatments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request officials in Louisiana to partner with prescribers, pharmacists, school-based organizations, and the manufacturers of branded and generic prescription

medications to evaluate existing efforts at deterring prescription drug abuse, determine the effectiveness of current efforts and make recommendations to the state on best practices for combating abuse while ensuring that access is not restricted for those individuals who are in need of prescription medications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor, the attorney general, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the colonel of the office of the Louisiana State Police, the state superintendent of education, the president of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, the president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the president of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, and the president of the Louisiana District Judges Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE