

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 6

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0361H.03C

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

Relating to substance use disorder awareness month.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

1           **WHEREAS**, substance use disorder is an addiction defined as a chronic, relapsing  
2 disorder characterized by compulsive drug seeking, continued use despite harmful consequences,  
3 and long-lasting changes in the brain and is considered both a complex brain disorder and a  
4 mental illness; and

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6           **WHEREAS**, substance use disorders are driving the overdose epidemic. An American  
7 Medical Association 2020 report shows that even as physicians write fewer prescriptions for  
8 opioid analgesics, the nation still faces an overdose epidemic that is increasingly fueled by  
9 illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, psychostimulants such as  
10 methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and drug combinations; and

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12           **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report over 81,000 drug  
13 overdose deaths occurred in the United States in the 12 months ending in May 2020, the highest  
14 number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period; and

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16           **WHEREAS**, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has determined  
17 overall drug overdose deaths in Missouri have increased 21% in the first three quarters of 2020  
18 compared to 2019; and

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20           **WHEREAS**, the Missouri Department of Mental Health 2017 Status Report on  
21 Missouri's Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health shows the annual estimated economic  
22 costs of this epidemic in Missouri are \$4.5 billion on alcohol use disorder, \$3.6 billion on drug  
23 use disorder, and \$8.4 billion on cigarette smoking; and

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25           **WHEREAS**, intravenous drug users account for over ten percent of all cases of HIV  
26 infection and higher rates of hepatitis C, and Missouri has over 10,000 people living with HIV  
27 and almost 8,000 hepatitis C cases; and

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29           **WHEREAS**, eleven Missouri counties are on the Centers for Disease Control and  
30 Prevention's list of places most at risk for HIV contraction; and

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32           **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's reports for every drug  
33 overdose that results in death, there are many more nonfatal overdoses, each one with its own  
34 emotional and economic toll; and

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36           **WHEREAS**, the long-term damage to individuals, their children, and families from  
37 substance use disorder is highly detrimental to our healthcare system and communities; and

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39           **WHEREAS**, the increase in overdose deaths highlights the need for essential services  
40 to remain accessible for people most at risk of overdose; and

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42           **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes the need to  
43 expand prevention and response activities and recommends expanding awareness about and  
44 access to available treatment for substance use disorders and the need to expand outreach and  
45 educational efforts:

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47           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
48 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
49 concurring therein, hereby designate the month of September as "Substance Use Disorder  
50 Awareness Month" in the state of Missouri; and

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52           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
53 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the  
54 Behavioral Health Division of the Department of Mental Health.

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