

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 182

By Yager

A RESOLUTION concerning the prescribing of Suboxone and Subutex in clinics and office-based settings.

WHEREAS, traditionally, methadone clinics have represented a primary treatment option for persons with opiate addiction, but in 2000, Suboxone received federal approval for office-based addiction treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 has expanded prescribing privileges of Suboxone to nurse practitioners and physician assistants; and

WHEREAS, as experience with Suboxone has developed, it appears that Suboxone can be addictive in a manner similar to oxycodone; and

WHEREAS, the related drug, Subutex, also appears to have addiction problems associated with it; and

WHEREAS, Suboxone and Subutex are not regulated in the same manner as methadone because the Drug Abuse Treatment Act of 2000 permits physicians with little training to prescribe Suboxone in a little-regulated office or outpatient clinic setting; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers have difficulty accessing patient treatment records and placing clinics under surveillance due to federal privacy and disability statutes; and

WHEREAS, in light of the problems with growing opioid addiction and the troubling issues associated with use of Suboxone and Subutex, the federal government should reconsider its lax enabling of the use of Suboxone and Subutex in treating persons with opiate addiction; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we strongly urge the federal government, in both Congress and the

Executive Branch, to reconsider the lax regulation of Suboxone and Subutex by changing statutes and regulations to enable the law enforcement and public health communities the appropriate ability to respond to the problems presented by the practices associated with prescribing Suboxone and Subutex in office and outpatient clinic settings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for transmittal to the Tennessee Congressional delegation and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.