

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 554

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION encouraging the bureau of TennCare to improve access to and quality of treatment for eligible Tennessee residents suffering from addiction to opiates or other substances.

WHEREAS, addiction of our fellow citizens to opiates and other substances represents a crisis to both this nation and this State; and

WHEREAS, recently the General Assembly and the Governor have sought and enacted initiatives to combat addiction to opiates and other substances in this state; and

WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services encouraged states to use Section 1115(a) demonstration projects to improve access to quality treatment programs in order to combat the opioid crisis in a recent letter to State Medicaid Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program in this State operates under a Section 1115 waiver as the TennCare program and covers over one million Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, an appropriate federal waiver program could beneficially enhance access in this State to quality treatment options for addiction to opiates and other substances; 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 this body encourages the bureau of TennCare to seek an appropriate Section 1115(a) waiver or an appropriate amendment to the existing TennCare II Section 1115 waiver in order to improve access to and quality of treatment for eligible Tennessee residents suffering from addiction to opiates or other substances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for transmittal to the Governor of Tennessee and the Bureau of TennCare.