



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Clere, Brown C, Davisson

A HOUSE RESOLUTION urging the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to revise the survey measures included in the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems that relate to the treatment of pain management.

Whereas, The number of deaths resulting from drug overdose continues to be a public health crisis in Indiana, with a 57 percent increase in the number of deaths over the past decade;

Whereas, According to the Indiana State Department of Health, drug overdoses caused 999 deaths among Indiana residents in 2012;

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Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control has ranked Indiana ninth with regard to the amount of opioid prescriptions that are being issued compared to the other states. Prescription drugs are involved in most of the unintentional drug overdoses and have largely driven the rise in deaths;

Whereas, The State of Indiana must take steps to end this crisis, including setting appropriate expectations for patient pain relief and setting incentives for the appropriate use of prescription pain medications, while maintaining the ability of health care professionals to exercise sound and independent clinical judgment in the best interests of their patients;

Whereas, The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, in its Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS), a survey instrument that measures patients' perceptions of their hospital experience, surveys patients on the topic of pain management and ties Medicare reimbursements to HCAHPS results;

Whereas, The 2013 IPLA INSPECT Knowledge and Use Survey reported that 85.7 percent of prescribers that responded to the survey reported to at least a moderate concern about prescription drug abuse in their community;

Whereas, Even though pain management enhances the quality of life in patients suffering from acute and chronic pain, health care professionals' concern about patients' pain management related survey responses may create a risk of over prescribing opioids; and

Whereas, Health care professionals and facilities should be primarily assessed on best medical practices rather than patient perceptions: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives urges the
- 2 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately revise the
- 3 HCAHPS survey measures to better address the topic of pain
- 4 management and to implement these changes with all due haste.
- 5 SECTION 2. That the Indiana House of Representatives supports



1 the efforts of those involved in drug abuse research, education,
2 community outreach, and prevention in order to build an environment
3 in which alternatives to opiates are available.

4 SECTION 3. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
5 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the United States
6 Secretary of Health and Human Services, the administrator of the
7 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the news media of
8 Indiana.

