

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**S. C. R. No. 10**

**Senator Eklund**

**Cosponsors: Senators Beagle, Yuko, Balderson**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To encourage the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to revise survey measures included in the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems that relate to patient pain management. 1  
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**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Drug overdose deaths continue to be a public health crisis in Ohio with a 366 per cent increase in the number of deaths from 2000 to 2012. According to the Ohio Department of Health, unintentional drug overdoses caused 1,914 deaths among Ohio residents in 2012. In 2012, five Ohioans died every day from unintentional drug overdose, or one every five hours. Prescription drugs are involved in most of the unintentional drug overdoses and have largely driven the rise in deaths; and 6  
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WHEREAS, According to the Ohio Department of Health, in addition to prescription drug overdose deaths, heroin-involved deaths have continued to increase from 16 per cent of all drug overdoses in 2008 to a high of 35.5 per cent in 2012. Heroin overdoses caused 680 deaths among Ohio residents in 2012. It has been widely reported that prescription opioids may serve as a gateway to heroin; and 14  
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WHEREAS, The State of Ohio must take steps to end this 21  
crisis, including setting appropriate expectations for patient 22  
pain relief and establishing incentives for appropriate 23  
prescribing practices; and 24

WHEREAS, The United States Centers for Medicare and 25  
Medicaid Services, in its Hospital Consumer Assessment of 26  
Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS), a survey instrument 27  
that measures patients' perceptions of their hospital 28  
experience, surveys patients on the topic of pain management and 29  
ties Medicare reimbursements to HCAHPS results; and 30

WHEREAS, The Ohio State Medical Association surveyed 1,100 31  
Ohio physicians and found that 74 per cent believe that HCAHPS 32  
survey measures add to the problem of over-prescribing pain 33  
medications; and 34

WHEREAS, Although pain management enhances the quality of 35  
life in patients suffering from acute and chronic pain, the 36  
pressure to achieve certain survey results presents incentives 37  
for health care professionals to liberally prescribe opioids; 38  
and 39

WHEREAS, Health care professionals and facilities should be 40  
assessed on best medical practices rather than patient 41  
perceptions; now therefore be it 42

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 131st General Assembly 43  
of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, call on the 44  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately revise 45  
the HCAHPS survey measures to better address the topic of pain 46  
management and to implement these changes with all due haste; 47  
and be it further 48

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 131st General Assembly 49  
of the State of Ohio, support the efforts of those involved in 50  
drug abuse research, education, community outreach, and 51

prevention to build an environment in which alternatives to 52  
opiates are available; and be it further 53

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 54  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the United States 55  
Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the 56  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the news media 57  
of Ohio. 58