



HR0270

LRB100 12175 MST 24567 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Heroin is an illegal and highly addictive drug
3 that is both the most abused and the most rapidly acting of the
4 opiates; and

5 WHEREAS, Heroin was first synthesized in 1874 from
6 morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the
7 seed pods of certain varieties of poppy plants; and

8 WHEREAS, Heroin is typically sold as a white or brownish
9 powder or as the black sticky substance known as "black tar
10 heroin"; and

11 WHEREAS, Although purer heroin is becoming more common,
12 most heroin is "cut" with other drugs or with substances such
13 as sugar, starch, and powdered milk, as well as strychnine or
14 other poisons; and

15 WHEREAS, Because heroin abusers do not know the actual
16 strength of the drug or its true contents, they are at risk of
17 overdose and death; and

18 WHEREAS, Heroin also poses special problems because of
19 transmission of HIV and other diseases that can occur from
20 sharing needles or other injection equipment, and because of

1 the medical and social consequences of abuse, including fetal
2 effects, crime, violence, and disruptions to the family,
3 workplace, and educational environments; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of Public
5 Health, there are more than 1,700 Illinois citizens per year
6 that overdose on drugs, with 42% of those overdoses directly
7 related to heroin; and

8 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the efforts to fight the heroin
9 epidemic, Cook County alone confirmed more than 500 heroin
10 overdose cases in 2016; and

11 WHEREAS, Despite efforts to combat the use of heroin,
12 DuPage County saw a record 59 confirmed heroin-related deaths
13 in 2013; and

14 WHEREAS, Heroin has become the second most common drug
15 after alcohol and the most common illegal substance for which
16 individuals enter treatment in Illinois, compared to the fourth
17 most common reason Illinoisans entered publicly-funded
18 treatment in 1998; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
21 urge the citizens of the State of Illinois, especially the

1 parents of Illinois youth, to become aware of the dangers
2 associated with the use of heroin and the escalating number of
3 accidental deaths due to heroin overdoses; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we find that comprehensive drug education
5 programs, including the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)
6 program, serve as valuable tools in presenting the facts and
7 dangers related to heroin use to Illinois youth; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That we designate the date of November 4 in 2017
10 and 2018 as Heroin Abuse Awareness Day in the State of
11 Illinois.