



SR0027

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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
3 Prevention, over the past several years, heroin use and opioid
4 painkiller abuse have increased across the State of Illinois
5 and the United States among men and women, most age groups, and
6 all income levels; and

7 WHEREAS, As heroin use has increased, so have
8 heroin-related overdose deaths; nationwide, between 2002 and
9 2013, the rate of heroin-related overdose deaths nearly
10 quadrupled, and more than 8,200 people died in 2013; and

11 WHEREAS, Between 2013 and 2014, the number of Illinoisans
12 who have died of an overdose increased 8.3% from 1,570 to
13 1,705, and roughly 42% (711) of these total drug overdose
14 deaths in Illinois were heroin-related; and

15 WHEREAS, There were 761 overdose deaths involving heroin in
16 2015 in Illinois; additionally, Illinois was one of 14 states
17 that had a statistically significant increase in the rate of
18 drug overdose deaths between 2013 and 2014; and

19 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has
20 said that states play a central role in prevention, treatment,
21 and recovery efforts for this growing epidemic; and

1 WHEREAS, Several cities and counties in Illinois,
2 including the Cities of Pekin and Dixon and the counties of Lee
3 and Whiteside, have created Safe Passages Initiatives to combat
4 the growing statewide problem of heroin and opioid abuse and
5 addiction; and

6 WHEREAS, Safe Passages Initiatives allows individuals
7 suffering from heroin and prescription opioid addiction to turn
8 their drugs over to police or sheriff's departments and not
9 fear prosecution; they are instead placed directly into
10 treatment programs organized by the police department and
11 community volunteers; and

12 WHEREAS, Safe Passages Initiatives are supported by the
13 Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and have proven
14 successful in the communities and counties in which they have
15 been implemented by steering individuals away from the criminal
16 justice system by helping them find the treatment they need;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we support Safe
20 Passages Initiatives and encourages all police departments in
21 the State to research and implement Safe Passages Initiatives
22 in their respective cities and counties.