



HR0296

LRB102 18456 MST 26543 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, There is a documented national opioid crisis in
3 America that has claimed more than half a million lives over
4 the past 20 years; and

5

WHEREAS, The opioid crisis has touched all age, gender,
6 race, and economic groups across the country and here in
7 Illinois; and

8

WHEREAS, Every year, 30,000 Illinoisans use heroin, 74,000
9 have an opioid use disorder, and nearly 400,000 misuse
10 prescription opioids; and

11

WHEREAS, Illinois saw 2,151 opioid related deaths in the
12 first three quarters of 2020, a 36 percent increase from 2019;
13 and

14

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a surge in
15 heroin and other opioid-related emergency department visits,
16 with overdose numbers above the average monthly rate for six
17 consecutive months in 2020, increasing the urgency and need
18 for immediate access to care as the opioid crisis has evolved
19 and continues to takes its toll; and

20

WHEREAS, The use of synthetic opioids and fentanyl, along

1 with poly-substance use, continues to rise and exacerbate the
2 already deadly opioid crisis, raising the attention and
3 concern of the CDC; and

4 WHEREAS, The total economic and social costs of opioid use
5 disorder to the State of Illinois exceed \$41 billion annually,
6 equating to nearly \$600,000 for every Illinoisan with an
7 opioid use disorder; and

8 WHEREAS, Substance use treatment providers provide
9 life-saving health care services every day across all of
10 Illinois; and

11 WHEREAS, Substance use disorders and co-occurring mental
12 health disorders need to be treated as the chronic health
13 conditions that they are; and

14 WHEREAS, Thousands of lawsuits against manufacturers,
15 distributors, and retailers of prescription opioids are
16 ongoing nationwide with settlements likely to be in the
17 billions of dollars; and

18 WHEREAS, The majority of states across the country have
19 passed or introduced legislation and are actively planning for
20 appropriate resource investment of opioid settlement dollars
21 in the abatement and remediation of the impacts of the opioid

1 crisis; and

2 WHEREAS, There is a desire to avoid the outcomes of
3 previous settlements, such as the tobacco settlement from
4 1998, where less than three percent of annual settlement sums
5 are used for abatement and remediation of the impacts of
6 tobacco use; and

7 WHEREAS, Illinois has had other revenue generating
8 legislation, such as an alcohol tax, where no revenue was
9 invested as intended for treatment and recovery supports for
10 alcohol use disorder; and

11 WHEREAS, The impending opioid settlements provide an
12 opportunity to invest in and transform the opioid use disorder
13 treatment system in Illinois, driving equity in treatment
14 access and availability for communities across the State; and

15 WHEREAS, Defining and designating safety net substance use
16 treatment providers is the first step toward an equitable
17 health care system for Illinois residents who have been
18 impacted by the opioid crisis; and

19 WHEREAS, Illinois can take action and join other states in
20 appropriately investing much needed resources in areas with
21 the greatest level of impact for those affected by the opioid

1 crisis in Illinois; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we urge the Illinois General Assembly to create the Opioid
5 Settlement Fund, created as a special fund in the State
6 Treasury to receive opioid-related settlement funds to which
7 the State of Illinois may be entitled under any opioid-related
8 settlement; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That all funds received by the State from an
10 opioid-related settlement should be deposited into the Opioid
11 Settlement Fund to be used for purposes related to alleviating
12 the opioid crisis; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That of the moneys allocated to the Fund, a
14 portion should be dedicated as follows: (1) to provide greater
15 access to and availability of quality and effective opioid use
16 disorder treatment, (2) to provide funding to safety net
17 substance use treatment providers, including the allocation of
18 capital funding resources to such providers to expand access
19 to and availability of quality and effective opioid use
20 disorder treatment, and (3) to maximize the opportunity to
21 draw federal matching funds for purposes related to
22 alleviation of the opioid crisis; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That in addition to the moneys allocated,
2 subject to appropriation, at least \$100,000 should, on an
3 annual basis, be granted to the Illinois Alcohol and Other
4 Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association to cover the
5 fees associated with the application and testing of human
6 services professionals in the State of Illinois who provide
7 substance use disorder services and mental health services;
8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That "opioid-related settlement" means any and
10 all current or future settlements reached by the State of
11 Illinois, independently or as part of a global or multi-state
12 settlement, with opioid manufacturers, distributors,
13 retailers, and any associated business entities; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That "safety net substance use treatment
16 providers" means licensed and nationally accredited substance
17 use treatment providers that are open 24 hours per day, are
18 required to admit patients 24 hours per day, are providing
19 medication-assisted treatment to individuals with opioid use
20 disorder, and are serving a higher proportion of Medicaid
21 beneficiaries and individuals who are uninsured; and be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 delivered to the Governor, all Legislative Leaders, the
2 Attorney General, the Illinois Department of Human
3 Services-Department of Substance Use, Prevention and Recovery
4 (SUPR), and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family
5 Services (HFS).