



HR0868

LRB096 19601 KXB 34993 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The prescription of psychotropic drugs to treat psychiatric disorders has greatly increased in recent years;

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and

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WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has, since 2004, required manufacturers of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor antidepressant medications (SSRIs) to add black box warnings to their product labeling, advising that studies have shown an increase in suicidal thinking and behavior among children and adolescents suffering from psychiatric disorders;

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and

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WHEREAS, Health authorities in Canada, the European Union, Australia, and Great Britain have issued warnings regarding the increased risk of self-harm or harm to others associated with SSRIs; and

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WHEREAS, In recent years there have been numerous documented instances of suicides and acts of violence against others by persons reported to have been taking antidepressants and/or other psychotropic medications; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

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1 the Psychotropic Substances Suicide Risk Task Force be created
2 within the Department of Public Health to (1) study and report
3 upon the available research relevant to the reputed causal link
4 between prescription of psychotropic substances and acts of
5 suicide or violence against others; (2) to evaluate whether the
6 State of Illinois' current policies with regard to psychotropic
7 substances are adequate to protect the public; and (3) to make
8 recommendations as to whether Illinois should consider
9 adopting additional policies with regard to psychotropic
10 substances, including but not limited to requiring county
11 coroners to test for psychotropic substances in cases of
12 suspected suicide; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the
14 following members: 3 members appointed by the Speaker of the
15 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed
16 co-chairperson, and 3 members appointed by the Minority Leader
17 of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed
18 co-chairperson; and 2 members appointed by the Director of the
19 Department of Public Health; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall take voluntary
21 assistance and testimony from individuals and/or professional
22 organizations and institutions; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall serve

1 without compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual expenses
2 while serving on the Task Force from funds appropriated to the
3 Department of Public Health for that purpose; and be it further
4 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit its final report
5 to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than December
6 31, 2010.