

As Introduced

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

S. C. R. No. 10

Senator Eklund

Cosponsors: Senators Beagle, Yuko, Balderson

A C O N C U R R E N T R E S O L U T I O N

To encourage the federal Centers for Medicare and 1
Medicaid Services to revise survey measures included 2
in the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare 3
Providers and Systems that relate to patient pain 4
management. 5

**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 6
health crisis in Ohio with a 366 per cent increase in the number 7
of deaths from 2000 to 2012. According to the Ohio Department of 8
Health, unintentional drug overdoses caused 1,914 deaths among 9
Ohio residents in 2012. In 2012, five Ohioans died every day 10
from unintentional drug overdose, or one every five hours. 11
Prescription drugs are involved in most of the unintentional 12
drug overdoses and have largely driven the rise in deaths; and 13

WHEREAS, According to the Ohio Department of Health, in 14
addition to prescription drug overdose deaths, heroin-involved 15
deaths have continued to increase from 16 per cent of all drug 16
overdoses in 2008 to a high of 35.5 per cent in 2012. Heroin 17
overdoses caused 680 deaths among Ohio residents in 2012. It has 18
been widely reported that prescription opioids may serve as a 19
gateway to heroin; and 20

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