

**As Offered**

**131st General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2015-2016**

**H. R. No. 510**

**Representatives Johnson, G., Driehaus**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Strahorn, Antonio, Ashford, Bocchieri, Boggs,**

**Cera, Craig, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, O'Brien, M., Ramos, Sheehy, Smith, K.,**

**Boyce, Brenner, Celebrezze, Amstutz, Hood**

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

To urge the Governor to declare that the increasing 1  
prevalence of opioid abuse is a public health 2  
emergency and to direct available state resources 3  
to support prevention and treatment efforts. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

WHEREAS, Unintentional drug overdose continued to be the 5  
leading cause of injury-related deaths in Ohio in 2015, ahead of 6  
motor vehicle traffic crashes. According to the Ohio Department 7  
of Health, unintentional drug overdoses caused 3,050 deaths 8  
among Ohio residents in 2015, the highest number on record, 9  
compared to 2,531 in 2014. From 2014 to 2015, the number of 10  
overdose deaths increased 20.5 per cent; and 11

WHEREAS, According to the most recent national data 12  
available, 47,055 people in the United States died from drug 13  
overdoses in 2014 and, since 2000, the age-adjusted drug 14  
overdose death rate has more than doubled, from 6.2 per 100,000 15  
in 2000 to 14.7 per 100,000 in 2014; and 16

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Health has determined that 17  
the continued illicit use of the opioid fentanyl is a 18

significant contributor to the rise of overdose deaths in this 19  
state. There were 652 more unintentional fentanyl-related 20  
overdose deaths in Ohio in 2015 than in 2014, and 1,071 more 21  
than in 2013; and 22

WHEREAS, In addition to fentanyl-related overdose deaths, 23  
the Ohio Department of Health has found that heroin-involved 24  
deaths have continued to increase. Such deaths accounted for 25  
1,424 unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2015, up from 1,196 26  
in 2014. The Ohio Department of Health has determined that 27  
heroin was involved in 46.7 per cent of all overdose deaths; and 28

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Health has reported that 29  
opioids, including fentanyl, heroin, and prescription opioids, 30  
remain the driving factor behind unintentional drug overdoses in 31  
Ohio. In 2015, 84.9 per cent of drug overdoses involved the use 32  
of any opioid and unintentional drug overdose deaths from use of 33  
multiple drugs accounted for 57.3 per cent of such deaths; and 34

WHEREAS, In the summer of 2016, many communities in Ohio 35  
experienced a rapid increase in the number of opioid-related 36  
overdoses. For instance, Summit County Public Health has 37  
reported that, in the month of July 2016 alone, emergency rooms 38  
serving county residents treated an estimated 395 overdoses, a 39  
number matching the total number of overdoses seen during the 40  
four months prior to July; now therefore be it 41

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 42  
Representatives of the 131st General Assembly of the State of 43  
Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge the Governor to issue an 44  
executive order declaring that the increasing prevalence of 45  
opioid abuse, as evidenced by the recent rate of unintentional 46  
opioid overdose deaths, is a public health emergency; and be it 47  
further 48

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 49  
Representatives of the 131st General Assembly of the State of 50

Ohio, in adopting this resolution, express support for the work 51  
of those involved in drug abuse research, education, community 52  
outreach, prevention, and treatment and, in an effort to address 53  
opioid abuse in a comprehensive and unified manner, urge the 54  
Governor to direct available state resources to assist them in 55  
their endeavors; and be it further 56

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 57  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 58  
Governor and news media of Ohio. 59