

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 97

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the support of the legislature for the MyOldMeds campaign to promote safe storage and in-home disposal of prescription medications.

WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse continues to be a significant public health problem, and the nation's biopharmaceutical industry remains committed to working with other stakeholders to find meaningful solutions to this problem such as community education and collaboration with local, state, and national leaders; and

WHEREAS, prescription medications save and improve lives every day when taken exactly as prescribed and for the intended purpose; and

WHEREAS, abuse or misuse of prescription medications can cause serious adverse health consequences, including overdose and death; and

WHEREAS, approximately six million eight hundred thousand Americans took prescription drugs for nonmedical uses in 2012; and

WHEREAS, nationally, deaths related to prescription drug overdoses tripled from 1999 to 2010, and Louisiana's overdose death rate is higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, educating consumers about safe disposal of unused medicines can help prevent drug diversion and abuse; and

WHEREAS, a preferred, safe, and secure way of disposing unused medicines through household trash exists presently; and

WHEREAS, in-home medicine disposal, which is a method that has been proven to be both effective and environmentally friendly, removes medicines from the home as soon as they are no longer needed so that the medicines are not available for misuse or abuse; and

WHEREAS, with few exceptions, the United States Food and Drug Administration recommends in-home disposal through safe and secure steps such as placing medicines in a sealable container such as a plastic bag, mixing with water and an undesirable substance such as cat litter or coffee grounds, and placing the container in one's household trash; and

WHEREAS, the MyOldMeds program is an education campaign designed to increase public awareness about the importance of secure storage and disposal of drugs and to demonstrate an easy way for consumers to handle drug disposal independently, securely, and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the MyOldMeds campaign is being launched in Louisiana to enhance consumer awareness and education about the in-home disposal process, which is the best way to ensure that medicines are being disposed of properly; and

WHEREAS, the MyOldMeds campaign will help spread the word about safe and secure disposal of medicines to help combat drug diversion and abuse and prevent accidental ingestion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its support for the MyOldMeds campaign for the purpose of increasing awareness among policymakers, patients, and healthcare providers regarding safe and secure disposal of prescription medicines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America's senior director of state advocacy for the territory encompassing Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE