

1 adopt policies encouraging the safe and effective treatment of patients with pain including
2 the use of opioid analgesics; and

3 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opioid
4 prescriptions have nearly quadrupled since 1999; and

5 WHEREAS, deaths from prescription opioids, including drugs like oxycodone,
6 hydrocodone, and methadone, have more than quadrupled since 1999; and

7 WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2015, more than one hundred eighty-three thousand
8 Americans have died from overdoses related to prescription opioids; and

9 WHEREAS, overdose is not the only risk related to prescription opioids; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2014, almost two million Americans abused or were dependent on
11 prescription opioids; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration is now recommending
13 mandatory training for physicians who prescribe opioids; and

14 WHEREAS, physicians who resist prescribing more narcotics may be adversely
15 affected if patient satisfaction scores in patient care surveys drop as a result; and

16 WHEREAS, in June 2016, the American Medical Association House of Delegates
17 adopted a Board of Trustees report recommending that the association advocate that pain as
18 the fifth vital sign be removed from professional standards and usage; and

19 WHEREAS, physicians at the American Academy of Family Physicians 2016
20 Congress of Delegates voted to eliminate pain scores as the fifth vital sign.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to take all necessary steps to bring
23 attention to the need to eliminate the use of pain as the fifth vital sign and a determinate of
24 quality patient care, and to increase prescriber education and awareness on assessing,
25 identifying, and treating the symptom of pain with the goal of reducing the use of opioids
26 to treat patient-reported pain when alternative forms of pain management would be
27 sufficient.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health is hereby
29 urged to bring this important issue to the attention of the United States Congress, the Centers
30 for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Food and Drug Administration,

1 America's Health Insurance Plans, accrediting organizations including but not limited to the
2 National Committee on Quality Assurance, the Joint Commission, and the Utilization
3 Review Accreditation Commission, and the Federation of State Medical Boards, as well as
4 Louisiana medical schools, prescriber licensing boards, prescriber trade associations, and
5 other interested stakeholders and policy makers.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
7 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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White

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