

1                   **Concurrent Resolution Directing PEHP Regarding Pain Medication**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler**

House Sponsor:

2                   **LONG TITLE**

3                   **General Description:**

4                   This resolution relates to non-opioid pain medication and state employee health coverage.

5                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

6                   This resolution:

7                   ▸ directs the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program to adjust the state employee  
8                   health insurance plan related to non-opioid pain medication.

9                   **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

10                  None

11                  **Other Special Clauses:**

12                  None

13                  *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

14                  WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 49-20-201, the state participates in the Public  
15                  Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program (PEHP);

16                  WHEREAS, Utah has experienced significant harm from the opioid epidemic, with  
17                  thousands of Utahns suffering from opioid addiction and hundreds dying from opioid-related  
18                  overdoses annually;

19                  WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued guidelines  
20                  recommending that non-opioid therapies be considered as first-line treatments for chronic pain;

21                  WHEREAS, many health insurance plans impose utilization barriers to accessing  
22                  non-opioid pain medications through:

- 23                  1. higher copayments and coinsurance rates compared to opioid medications;
- 24                  2. prior authorization requirements that delay or prevent access to non-opioid alternatives;
- 25                  3. quantity limits that restrict the supply of non-opioid medications; and
- 26                  4. formulary placement that designates non-opioid options as non-preferred or specialty  
27                  drugs;

28                  WHEREAS, some health insurance plans do not apply these same requirements to opioid

31       drugs; and

32       WHEREAS, these coverage disparities create perverse incentives that encourage the use of  
33       opioid medications over safer non-opioid alternatives:

34       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
35       Governor concurring therein, ~~§→~~ **beginning with the 2027 plan year,** ~~←~~~~§~~ directs PEHP for  
35a       state employees:

36           1. to include in PEHP's drug formulary at least one clinically appropriate non-opioid  
37       prescription drug as an alternative for each opioid prescription drug; and

38           2. not to place cost sharing, prior authorization, step therapy, or other utilization review  
39       requirements on a covered non-opioid prescription drug that are more restrictive than the  
40       requirements placed on a covered opioid prescription drug.