

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, directs PEHP for 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.