

1 **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES DRUG**  
2 **ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION TO APPROVE A**  
3 **PHARMACEUTICAL DROP BOX PILOT PROGRAM**

4 2019 GENERAL SESSION

5 STATE OF UTAH

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7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This concurrent resolution highlights the devastating impact of the opioid epidemic and  
10 urges the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to approve a pilot program  
11 for pharmaceutical drop boxes.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13 This resolution:

- 14 ▶ highlights the impact of the opioid epidemic on the state of Utah;
- 15 ▶ describes previous actions to place law enforcement-controlled pharmaceutical drop  
16 boxes in local pharmacies; and
- 17 ▶ urges the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to approve a pilot  
18 program for pharmaceutical drop boxes that are controlled by local law enforcement  
19 agencies.

20 **Special Clauses:**

21 None

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

24 WHEREAS, the state of Utah is committed to fostering a safe and drug-free  
25 environment for all of its citizens;

26 WHEREAS, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration designated the state  
27 of Utah as an official DEA 360 strategy area in the fall of 2017 to combat opioid addiction and  
28 overdose deaths in the state;

29 WHEREAS, Utah ranks 4th highest in the nation for drug overdose deaths, with 23  
30 individuals dying each month from a prescription opioid overdose in 2016;

31 WHEREAS, from 2000 to 2015, Utah experienced a nearly 400% increase in deaths

32 from the misuse and abuse of opioids, and the problem is continuing to grow;

33 WHEREAS, most individuals who misuse prescription drugs have access to the drugs  
34 from a friend or relative, not a local drug dealer;

35 WHEREAS, Utah currently has over 150 drop boxes based in local law enforcement  
36 offices around the state;

37 WHEREAS, Utahns have advised members of the newly formed Attorney General's  
38 Opioid Task Force that people would be more likely to drop off unused pharmaceutical drugs  
39 in a drop box if the boxes are placed in local pharmacies;

40 WHEREAS, even though drop boxes are allowed in pharmacies, Utah pharmacists have  
41 repeatedly informed the Opioid Task Force that federal regulations governing the placement  
42 and maintenance of drop boxes are too onerous;

43 WHEREAS, Utah is a geographically large state with a substantial portion of the  
44 population living in rural areas, and some citizens must drive over 20 miles to place their  
45 unused drugs in a designated drop box;

46 WHEREAS, in a letter sent to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration on  
47 May 31, 2017, the Utah Attorney General requested a waiver from existing regulations to  
48 operate a one-year pilot program that would allow law enforcement agencies to place and  
49 operate pharmaceutical drop boxes in local pharmacies;

50 WHEREAS, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration's response dated  
51 September 6, 2017, to the Utah Attorney General's request merely reiterated existing  
52 regulations and failed to address the pilot program;

53 WHEREAS, all of the pharmaceutical drop boxes in the pilot program would be  
54 completely owned and operated by a local law enforcement entity, and all boxes would be  
55 installed in conjunction with in-store security camera and facility alarm systems;

56 WHEREAS, local law enforcement officers would be solely responsible for emptying  
57 and securing the disposed drugs until the drugs could be properly destroyed;

58 WHEREAS, drugs placed in the secure drop boxes would be considered abandoned  
59 property and would be destroyed in accordance with applicable state and federal law;

60 WHEREAS, drop boxes in the pilot program would not be placed in pharmacies that  
61 are already registered as Collectors with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;  
62 and

63           WHEREAS, the pilot program would allow the Opioid Task Force to evaluate whether  
64 a significant increase in the number of take-back locations could reduce rates of prescription  
65 drug misuse, overdose, and death:

66           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
67 Governor concurring therein, requests that the United States Drug Enforcement Administration  
68 respond to the Utah Attorney General's request for a pilot program to allow local law  
69 enforcement agencies to place and operate pharmaceutical drop boxes in local pharmacies.

70           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor join the Utah  
71 Attorney General to call on the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to act quickly  
72 to support the state of Utah in its efforts to address the opioid epidemic by approving the  
73 pharmaceutical drop box pilot program.

74           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be delivered to the United  
75 States Attorney General, the United States Attorney for the District of Utah, and the  
76 Administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.