

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DECLARING DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS TO BE A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Carol Spackman Moss

Senate Sponsor: Brian E. Shiozawa

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor declares drug overdose deaths in Utah to be a public health emergency and strongly urges Utah's Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Department of Public Safety to immediately direct resources to address this crisis.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ emphasizes the importance of the lives of all people living in Utah;
- ▶ recognizes Utah's high rates of overdose death compared to most states in the country;

and

- ▶ strongly urges Utah's Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Department of Public Safety to recognize this public health crisis and direct resources to reduce the number of overdose deaths in Utah.

Special Clauses:

None

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

WHEREAS, the lives of all people living in Utah are precious and deeply valued;

WHEREAS, the Utah drug overdose death rate represents a public health emergency;



28 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the state of Utah and the Governor establish the priorities for
29 funding, the use of resources, and the actions of departments of Utah state government;

30 WHEREAS, Utah's rate of drug overdose deaths ranks fourth in the nation;

31 WHEREAS, Utah's rate of military veteran drug overdose deaths ranks first in the nation;

32 and

33 WHEREAS, the number of drug-related deaths in Utah exceed the number of deaths from
34 motor vehicle collisions and firearms:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
36 Governor concurring therein, strongly urges Utah's Department of Health, Department of Human
37 Services, and Department of Public Safety to direct appropriate resources to reducing the number of
38 drug overdose deaths in Utah.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Utah's Department
40 of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Public Safety.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel