

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND CALLING FOR THE IDAHO BOARDS OF
2 MEDICINE, NURSING, DENTISTRY AND PHARMACY, WORKING WITH THE OFFICE OF
3 DRUG POLICY, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, LOCAL GOVERN-
4 MENTS, LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTORS, AND PROFESSIONAL ASSO-
5 CIATIONS THROUGHOUT IDAHO TO USE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY'S PRESCRIPTION
6 MONITORING PROGRAM AND BEST PRACTICES IN ORDER TO INCREASE AWARENESS
7 AND PREVENT AND TREAT PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE FOR THE PEOPLE OF IDAHO
8 AND CALLING FOR THE OFFICE OF DRUG POLICY TO COORDINATE THE DEVELOPMENT
9 OF A STATE RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE.
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11 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

12 WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse has recently been classified as an
13 epidemic by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

14 WHEREAS, many individuals who misuse prescription drugs intended to al-
15 leviolate disease and eliminate pain believe these substances are safer than
16 illicit drugs because they are prescribed by a health care professional and
17 dispensed by a pharmacist; and

18 WHEREAS, the misuse of prescription drugs can lead to addiction and even
19 death; and

20 WHEREAS, according to the CDC, such overdoses outnumber deaths involv-
21 ing crack or heroin combined; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2010, approximately 12 million Americans reported nonmedi-
23 cal use of prescription painkillers in the past year; and

24 WHEREAS, more than 13,000 babies a year are born in America addicted to
25 prescription painkillers like OxyContin, hydrocodone and other narcotic
26 drugs, according to a recent study released by the Journal of the American
27 Medical Association; and

28 WHEREAS, the number of emergency room visits due to misuse or abuse of
29 prescription drugs has risen 98.4% since 2004; and

30 WHEREAS, according to the Idaho Office of Drug Policy, in 2011, 20.1% of
31 Idaho's 9th through 12th grade students reported taking a prescription drug
32 without a doctor's prescription; and

33 WHEREAS, the number of prescription pills seized by Idaho law enforce-
34 ment increased 143% between 2008 and 2009; and

35 WHEREAS, in Idaho, from 2000 to 2009, the number of prescription drug-
36 induced deaths increased two and one-half times.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
38 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
39 and the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature calls for the
40 Idaho Boards of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and Pharmacy, working with
41 the Office of Drug Policy, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, lo-
42 cal governments, local law enforcement and prosecutors, and professional
43 associations throughout Idaho to use the Board of Pharmacy's Prescription

1 Monitoring Program and best practices in order to increase awareness and
2 prevent and treat prescription drug abuse for the people of Idaho.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Drug Policy should coordinate
4 the development of a state response to the problem of prescription drug
5 abuse.