

A resolution supporting the goals of ending opioid abuse, advancing utilization of drug-free care, and designating October 2018 as Drug-Free Pain Management Month.

Whereas, prescription opioid use and abuse leading to addiction and catastrophic outcomes is a national crisis; and

Therefore the Legislature designated the month of September 2017 as Opioid, Heroin, and Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, (Senate Concurrent Resolution 68), to encourage residents to show support for opioid and prescription drug awareness; and

Whereas the legislature introduced bills to address the prescription opioid crisis leading to increased oversight of opioid prescribing and decreased prescriptions of opioids; and

Whereas there is anecdotal evidence that decreased prescribing of opioids has pushed some users to the streets; and

Whereas Fentanyl continues to flood the state with cheap, powerful, dangerous and easily obtained synthetic opioids; and

Whereas the leading cause of injury death in the United States is drug overdose, and a majority of the deaths from drug overdose deaths involved an opioid; and

Whereas from 1999 to 2016, more than 350,000 people --- more than three times the U.S. military deaths during the twenty years of the Vietnam War -- have died in the U.S. from overdoses related to prescription opioids;

Whereas we are losing 115 people a day from opioid overdoses and more than forty thousand people died from opioid overdoses in the U.S. in 2016;

Whereas overdoses from prescription opioids — drugs like oxycodone, hydrocodone, Percocet and methadone - are a driving factor in the 15-year increase in opioid overdose deaths;

Whereas 75 percent of new heroin users were first addicted to legally prescribed prescription opioids for pain; and

Whereas prescription opioids are often recommended for low back, neck, and musculoskeletal pain management;

Whereas over 100 million Americans suffer with chronic pain and an estimated 75 to 85 percent of all American will experience some form of back pain during their life time;

Whereas there is little evidence that opioids improve chronic pain, function, or quality of life, and long-term use of opioids, particularly at higher dosages, is associated with overdose, misuse, abuse, and opioid use disorder; and

Whereas major medical organizations and government bodies produced evidence based guidelines recommending non pharmacologic care as an effective alternative for patients with chronic pain; and

Whereas among U.S. adults prescribed opioids, 59% reported having back pain; and

Whereas American College of Physicians recommend non pharmacologic treatment as the first-line approach to treating back pain; and

Whereas the likelihood of filling a prescription for an opioid analgesic was 55% lower for recipients of services provided by Doctors of Chiropractic compared with nonrecipients of chiropractic care; and

Whereas the likelihood of an Adverse Drug Event was 51% lower for recipients of chiropractic services as compared to non recipients for non cancer low-back pain; and

Whereas many states have recently produced guidelines and laws mandating non pharmacologic pain care thus improving access to alternatives to drugs; and

Whereas most states have fully implemented the Affordable Care Act , --section 2706—non discrimination against providers, to allow for complete access to alternative non pharmaceutical care for chronic pain including back pain; and

Whereas California has not adopted ACA 2706 allowing access and encouraging residents to seek nonprescription drug and non opioid care for pain; and

Whereas Doctors of Chiropractic are educated and trained to effectively address spinal and neuro-musculoskeletal pain with non-surgical, non-drug management; and

Whereas Chiropractic care of low back pain is both safe and effective; and a systematic review shows chiropractic provides a clinical benefit with no evidence of serious harms; and

Thus, increased availability and utilization of chiropractic services could lead to a reduction in prescriptions for analgesics including opioids and a decrease of Adverse Drug Events; and

Whereas Practical solutions to this societal opioid crisis are urgently needed; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that October 2018 be declared Drug-Free Pain Management Month, to raise public awareness that chiropractic care is the primary first-line, non-pharmacologic approach to safely and effectively relieve acute, subacute and chronic pain.