

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 80

Senator Lauwers offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate August 31, 2021, as Overdose
2 Awareness Day.

3 Whereas, Drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of injury
4 or death in the United States; and

5 Whereas, Since 2000, drug overdose deaths are nine times
6 higher in the state of Michigan, the majority of which are a result
7 of prescription opioids, illicit fentanyl (synthetic opioid), and
8 heroin; and

9 Whereas, More people in Michigan and across the United States
10 died from drug overdoses in 2020 than ever before; and

11 Whereas, More specifically, overdose deaths in Michigan
12 increased more than 16 percent between 2019 and 2020, accounting

1 for nearly 2,770 overdose deaths in 2020; and

2 Whereas, Overdose deaths were up nearly 30 percent across the
3 nation in 2020, accounting for more than 93,000 deaths; and

4 Whereas, The families and friends of overdose victims suffer
5 unspeakable grief and heartache from the loss of their loved ones;
6 and

7 Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
8 have categorized prescription and synthetic drug substance abuse as
9 the nation's top public health epidemics; and

10 Whereas, Substance abuse disorder is a neurological disease
11 that over 20 million Americans are afflicted with; and

12 Whereas, The ongoing stigmatization of substance abuse
13 disorder results in many Americans not seeking the mental health
14 treatment and medical care they need to recover from their
15 addiction, resulting in increased overdose deaths; and

16 Whereas, Substance abuse disorder also has tremendous social
17 and economic consequences in America, including increased costs to
18 our health care and criminal justice systems, losses in job
19 productivity, threats to public safety, and the erosion of
20 families; and

21 Whereas, The public health addiction and overdose crisis
22 requires a multi-pronged solution that engages law enforcement,
23 health professionals, policymakers, and the general public; and

24 Whereas, The multi-stakeholder Michigan Prescription Drug and
25 Opioid Abuse Task Force is creating a statewide action plan to
26 address this widespread disease; and

27 Whereas, The recommendations of the Michigan Prescription Drug
28 and Opioid Abuse Task Force have the potential to reduce the number
29 of drug overdose deaths in Michigan; and

1 Whereas, August 31, 2021, is observed as International
2 Overdose Awareness Day; now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
4 body commemorate August 31, 2021, as Overdose Awareness Day. We
5 encourage all of Michigan's citizens to participate in the aims and
6 goals of this effort.