



National Lieutenant Governors Association

1 **Resolution in Support of Evidence-based Medical Treatment for Substance Use Disorders**

2 **WHEREAS**, prescription drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions in the United States;ⁱ and

3 **WHEREAS**, prescription drugs are abused more often than any other drug, except marijuana and alcohol.ⁱⁱ A recent
4 study indicated that more than 54 million people aged 12 and older had abused prescription drugs at some point in
5 their lives and nearly 15 million people had done so in 2014.ⁱⁱⁱ

6 **WHEREAS**, national studies show that many teens are more likely to abuse a prescription drug than illegal street
7 drugs, with the exception of marijuana.^{iv}

8 **WHEREAS**, the rise in heroin use is closely related to the prescription drug epidemic. As efforts to address
9 prescription drug abuse increase, those who suffer from substance use disorder often turn to illicit drugs.^v

10 **WHEREAS**, more than 50% of prison inmates meet medical criteria for drug dependence or abuse^{vi}; and

11 **WHEREAS**, up to one-third of all heroin users pass through the criminal justice system annually^{vii}; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the overall criminal justice costs of opioid dependence is \$5.2 billion annually.

13 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) supports policies
14 and programs that assist communities and their health care providers in the prevention, early detection, and
15 treatment of opioid abuse and addiction; and

16 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NLGA supports non-addictive treatment plans,
17 including non-narcotic medications, to treat people suffering from opioid dependence; and

18 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NLGA supports the use of non-addictive evidence-
19 based medical treatment in prisons and, when deemed appropriate, as an alternative to incarceration for drug-related
20 offenses.

Primary Sponsors: Lt. Governor Brian Calley, MI; Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, CT; Additional Co-Sponsors: Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, IA; Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, WI; Lt. Gov. Dan McKee, RI; Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, SD; Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, LA

ⁱ *Prescription Drug Abuse*, OFFICE OF NAT'L DRUG CONTROL POLICY, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/prescription-drug-abuse> (last visited Sept. 25, 2015).

ⁱⁱ *Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse*, SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVS. ADMIN., <http://www.samhsa.gov/prescription-drug-misuse-abuse> (last updated Sept. 29, 2014).

ⁱⁱⁱ CTR. FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STATISTICS & QUALITY, SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION & RTI INTERNATIONAL, RESULTS FROM THE 2014 NATIONAL SURVEY ON DRUG USE AND HEALTH: DETAILED TABLES, <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DetTabs2014/NSDUHDetTabs2014.htm#tab1-1a> (last visited Sept. 25, 2015).

^{iv} I DRUG ENF'T ADMIN., *PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER: HOW TEENS ABUSE MEDICINE* 8 (2nd ed. 2012)

^v Michigan Prescription Drug & Opioid Abuse Task Force Final Report and Recommendations, October 2015

(http://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/Prescription_Drug_and_Opioid_Task_Force_Report_504140_7.pdf)

^{vi} Josiah Rich, Sarah Wakeman, and Samuel Dickman. "Medicine and the Epidemic of Incarceration in the United States." *The New England Journal of Medicine*. 2 June 2011. Page 2. Print.

^{vii} Josiah Rich, Sarah Wakeman, and Samuel Dickman. "Medicine and the Epidemic of Incarceration in the United States." *The New England Journal of Medicine*. 2 June 2011. Page 2. Print.