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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, An estimated two million people aged 12 or older in the United States have a substance use disorder related to prescription pain relievers including opioids, and an additional 591,000 related to heroin; and

WHEREAS, During 2015, there were 52,404 deaths due to drug overdose, 63% of which were caused by opioids; and

WHEREAS, In Illinois, heroin-related deaths increased 22% between 2013 and 2014, from 583 to 711 deaths; the death rate in Illinois related to synthetic opioids other than methadone increased by 120% between 2014 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 1.5 million of the 2.3 million individuals incarcerated in local, State, and federal jails or prisons meet diagnostic criteria for substance use disorder; an estimated 15% of the hundreds entering and leaving prison have heroin use disorders; and

WHEREAS, Only 11% of those incarcerated in jails or prisons who meet diagnostic criteria for a substance use disorder receive any type of professional treatment while incarcerated, and fewer than 1% of them are provided detoxification services; and

1 WHEREAS, Over the past five years alone, families in at
2 least six states have been awarded nearly \$11 million in
3 compensation for loved ones who died while being denied routine
4 detoxification care in local jails; and

5 WHEREAS, The Federal Bureau of Prisons, the World Health
6 Organization, and the National Commission on Correctional
7 Health Care provide guidelines and standards for the provision
8 of care for individuals in correctional custody who need
9 detoxification services; and

10 WHEREAS, The provision of medical monitoring and medically
11 assisted detoxification in jails requires fiscal support for
12 personnel, medications, and supplies, and the level of support
13 is likely less than would be costs associated with wrongful
14 death lawsuits; and

15 WHEREAS, County sheriffs in Illinois and around the country
16 have been instrumental in assisting incarcerated individuals
17 with substance use disorders connect to community-based
18 substance use and mental health treatment services following
19 release from jail; and

20 WHEREAS, County sheriffs in Illinois have consistently
21 asked for more resources in dealing with addiction and the

1 mentally ill, only to be repeatedly denied due to limited local
2 resources; and

3 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois continues to underfund
4 mental health treatment in Illinois and fails to properly and
5 timely fund community providers for substance abuse treatment;
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
9 urge county sheriffs across Illinois to continue to implement
10 standard medical protocols for monitoring and treatment of
11 individuals experiencing withdrawal while incarcerated to
12 mitigate pain and discomfort, and to reduce the risk of both
13 serious medical incidents, including death, and wrongful death
14 lawsuits; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge local municipalities, county
16 boards, and the State to provide fiscal support necessary to
17 assist county sheriffs in undertaking these efforts; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
20 delivered to all county sheriffs and county board presidents in
21 Illinois.