

R E S O L U T I O N
of
T H E B O A R D O F S U P E R V I S O R S
M A R I N C O U N T Y
P R O C L A I M I N G
P R E S C R I P T I O N D R U G A B U S E A W A R E N E S S M O N T H
M A R C H 2 0 1 5

WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse is the Nation's fastest-growing drug problem, and Marin County is deeply impacted; and

WHEREAS, there are more overdose deaths from prescription pain killers and sedatives than from heroin and cocaine combined; and

WHEREAS, in Marin County since 2009 more people have died from accidental drug poisonings than from motor vehicle fatalities; and

WHEREAS, over the past 10 years in Marin the number of emergency room visits related to narcotic overdoses and the number of accidental drug overdoses has more than doubled; and

WHEREAS, the epidemic has even spread to our children, where seventeen percent of eleventh graders in Marin report having used prescription painkillers recreationally; and

WHEREAS, almost three quarters of people who abuse prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a doctor; and

WHEREAS, there are over 400,000 pain killer and sedative prescriptions per year in Marin County; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, over 7,500 lbs. of safely disposed medications were removed from circulation in dedicated drug take back sites and events by law enforcement, Marin Environmental Health Services, and community partners; and

WHEREAS, the National Drug Control Strategy lists four interventions to reduce prescription drug abuse, one of which is to provide safe drug disposal programs. Marin County is prioritizing efforts to increase opportunities for safe and convenient medication disposal; and

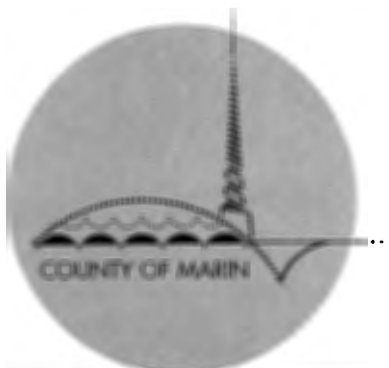
WHEREAS, one important strategy to reduce drug misuse and overdose is safely disposing of unused and unwanted left-over medication; and

WHEREAS, Marin County is proactively addressing this problem through RxSafe Marin, a community-wide coalition representing several county departments, community advocates, agencies, parents, pharmacists and health care partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marin County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the month of March 2015 as "Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month" and encourages people to engage in prevention and safe disposal strategies.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 24 day of March 2015.

KATIE RICE – SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 2 - PRESIDENT



AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 12, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 26

Introduced by Assembly Member Levine

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

(Coauthor: Senator McGuire)

February 19, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 26, as amended, Levine. Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of March 2015 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month and encourage all citizens to actively participate in prevention programs and activities, and to safely store and dispose of their medications on a continual basis.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Drug overdose was the leading cause of injury and
2 death in 2012, and among people 25 to 64 years of age, drug
3 overdose caused more deaths than motor vehicle traffic crashes;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Every day in the United States, 120 people die as
6 a result of drug overdose, and another 6,748 are treated in
7 emergency departments for the misuse or abuse of drugs; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2013, drug overdoses in the United States caused
9 43,982 deaths and 22,767, or 52 percent, of those deaths were from
10 prescription drugs; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2011, 2.5 million emergency department visits
12 were related to the misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals; and

13 WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs
14 health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health care
15 costs; and

16 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers
17 now exceed the number of deaths from heroin and cocaine
18 combined; and

19 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse
20 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a
21 doctor; and

22 WHEREAS, During the last National Prescription Drug
23 Take-Back Day, the United States Drug Enforcement
24 Administration (DEA) collected 617,150 pounds (309 tons) of
25 unwanted medication on Saturday, September 27, 2014; and

26 WHEREAS, The 2014 National Drug Control Strategy listed
27 four interventions to reduce prescription drug abuse, one of which
28 was to provide safe drug disposal by increasing return and
29 take-back programs. We support California acquiring a sustainably
30 funded and well publicized statewide medication take-back system
31 that is much more convenient to consumers than the current
32 one-day events or disposal at hazardous waste facilities; and

33 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug
34 Abuse, law enforcement, community-based organizations, alcohol
35 and other drug service providers, and civic and business leaders
36 coordinate Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities
37 in California to engage our citizens in demonstrating their
38 commitment to prevention campaigns and education aimed at
39 raising awareness about the abuse and misuse of prescription drugs,

1 promoting prescription drug safe storage and disposal, and using
2 medications only as prescribed; and

3 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based
4 communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and
5 local governments, health care practitioners, and pharmacists in
6 the state, and the general public will demonstrate their commitment
7 to the prevention of prescription medication abuse by participating
8 in activities intended to highlight local efforts during the month
9 of March; and

10 WHEREAS, The Legislature supports National Prescription
11 Drug Take-Back Day as declared by the DEA, and encourages
12 residents to locate their local collection site and safely dispose of
13 their accumulated unwanted and unused prescription drugs; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares March
17 2015 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month and encourages
18 all citizens to actively participate in prevention programs and
19 activities, and to safely store and dispose of their medications on
20 a continual basis; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
22 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.