
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 611 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE, KINSEY, W. KELLER,
KORTZ, DEAN, MILLARD, COHEN, MURT, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, GIBBONS,
THOMAS AND GINGRICH, JANUARY 15, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 15, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass legislation
2 authorizing pharmacies to serve as collection sites for
3 unused or expired controlled prescription drugs.

4 WHEREAS, The abuse of prescription drugs, especially
5 controlled substances, is a serious social and health problem in
6 the United States today; and

7 WHEREAS, Drug overdose is now the second most common cause of
8 accidental death in our nation; and

9 WHEREAS, National data shows that as many as 16 million
10 Americans 12 years of age or older have abused controlled
11 prescription drugs, including pain relievers, tranquilizers,
12 sedatives and stimulants; and

13 WHEREAS, Unused controlled prescription drugs at home can
14 contribute to drug abuse and increases the risk of accidental
15 deaths of children and the elderly; and

16 WHEREAS, Abuse of controlled prescription drugs, particularly
17 painkillers, is a rapidly growing threat; and

18 WHEREAS, According to the National Survey on Drug Use and

1 Health, pain relievers are the most common type of controlled
2 prescription drugs taken illicitly and most commonly involved in
3 overdose incidents; and

4 WHEREAS, Individuals who abuse controlled prescription drugs
5 often acquire them from other individuals' medicine cabinets,
6 which demonstrates the importance of disposing unused controlled
7 prescription drugs rather than leaving the prescription drugs in
8 a medicine cabinet at home; and

9 WHEREAS, Although prescription drug take-back programs have
10 allowed for the safe and legal disposal of extra prescription
11 drugs that patients have not used, convenient community
12 collection locations for secure and anonymous disposal of
13 controlled prescription drugs are still lacking; and

14 WHEREAS, Pharmacies are safe and convenient locations for the
15 disposal of unused controlled prescription drugs and many
16 individuals may feel more comfortable using a pharmacy rather
17 than a law enforcement facility as a collection site; and

18 WHEREAS, Under current Federal law, only law enforcement can
19 accept narcotics and other controlled substances from residents;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Pharmacy take-back programs can only accept the
22 return of all over-the-counter drugs and prescription drugs that
23 are not controlled substances; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That pharmacies in the United States should be
25 authorized to collect unwanted or expired controlled
26 prescription drugs generated by households and long-term
27 residential care facilities; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognizes the
29 misuse and abuse of controlled prescription drugs as a major
30 threat to public health and safety; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Congress
2 of the United States to pass legislation authorizing pharmacies
3 to serve as collection sites for unused or expired controlled
4 prescription drugs; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
6 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
7 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.