

A RESOLUTION encouraging all Kentuckians to recognize February 23 to March 1, 2015, as United Against Opiate Abuse and Heroin Week, and supporting efforts to fight opiate abuse and heroin addiction throughout this great Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, the scourge of opiate and heroin abuse has reached this Commonwealth, and as this body attempts to combat the problem it is essential that all Kentuckians join in the fight against these devastating drugs; and

WHEREAS, in no area has opiate and heroin abuse hit Kentucky harder than in its northernmost communities, and the citizens who live and work there have made a conscious effort to combat this epidemic by recognizing February 23 to March 1, 2015, as United Against Opiate Abuse and Heroin Week; and

WHEREAS, at least two people die from a prescription painkiller or overdose every day in the 20 counties that surround Cincinnati and make up the greater northern Kentucky area. The rates of hepatitis C, opiate- and heroin-related crime, and babies born addicted to opiates or heroin are also higher in these communities; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body hereby calls on its members and all the citizens and families of this Commonwealth to stand with our northern Kentucky friends and recognize February 23 to March 1, 2015, as United Against Opiate Abuse and Heroin Week, and in so doing we can rally together as a united Commonwealth to eliminate opiate and heroin abuse from our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The Senate encourages all Kentuckians to recognize February 23 to March 1, 2015, as United Against Opiate Abuse and Heroin Week, and acknowledges the importance of coming together as a unified and vigilant Commonwealth against heroin and opiate abuse.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of our

northern Kentucky friends who have spent so much time and resources fighting opiate and heroin addiction, and in recognition of United Against Opiate Abuse and Heroin Week.

→Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Ralph Alvarado.