

1           A RESOLUTION recognizing Kentucky dentists and oral surgeons for their  
2           stewardship and efforts to reduce adolescent opioid use in the midst of a public health  
3           opioid crisis and for their education of patients on the potentially negative effects of the  
4           use of opioids.

5           WHEREAS, according to a 2014 article in *JAMA Psychiatry*, of those who began  
6           abusing opioids in the 2000s, 75 percent reported that their first opioid was a prescription  
7           drug and 80 percent of heroin users started with prescription opioids; and

8           WHEREAS, minors ages 10 to 19 may encounter their first exposure to opiates  
9           through routine dental care such as wisdom tooth extraction; and

10          WHEREAS, a survey conducted by the American Dental Association Survey Center  
11          showed that 85 percent of surgeons said they almost always prescribed an opioid; and

12          WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and  
13          Prevention, since 1999, sales of prescription opioids in the United States have  
14          quadrupled; and

15          WHEREAS, over one-half of opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid;  
16          and

17          WHEREAS, the president of the American Dental Association has asked dentists  
18          everywhere to reflect on how they manage dental pain and take several specific steps to  
19          help keep opioid pain relievers from harming their patients and their families; and

20          WHEREAS, this body also encourages dentists to help our fight against prescription  
21          opioid abuse in Kentucky and across our nation by using extreme caution when  
22          prescribing these powerful drugs to adolescents; and

23          WHEREAS, it is evident that opioids have a long history of stealing the innocence  
24          of our youth and causing addiction in our nation; and

25          WHEREAS, in an effort to combat the opioid crisis in Kentucky that has negatively  
26          impacted the overall health and well-being of many Kentuckians and their families, the  
27          Kentucky Dental Association recognizes that dentists have a special role to play in

1 fighting the opioid abuse problem and have taken great steps in developing a prescribing  
2 guide for Kentucky dentists to serve as an educational resource when serving their  
3 patients; and

4 WHEREAS, the dental profession has served on the frontlines of oral health care by  
5 encouraging patients to maintain proper oral health and urging patients to maintain  
6 healthy lifestyles; and

7 WHEREAS, the overall health and well-being of Kentucky's communities depend  
8 in great measure upon concerned and devoted health care providers fighting the opioid  
9 crisis, including Kentucky dentists, through educating patients about the benefits and  
10 drawbacks of using opioid analgesics, especially the great potential for addiction;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
13 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

14 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby recognize the  
15 public health contributions of the dental profession, the steps that dentists have taken to  
16 educate Kentuckians on the effects of opioids, and the ongoing efforts of dentists to  
17 combat the opioid crisis in Kentucky.

18 ➔Section 2. The members of the House of Representatives hereby encourage  
19 dentists to prescribe simple or non-opioid analgesic drugs that include non-steroidal anti-  
20 inflammatory drugs to adolescents for pain control when appropriate.

21 ➔Section 3. The members of the House of Representatives hereby encourage  
22 dentists to prescribe no more than a two-day supply of opioids to adolescents to treat  
23 acute pain resulting from an oral health condition.

24 ➔Section 4. The members of the House of Representatives commend the  
25 Kentucky Dental Association for developing a prescribing guide for Kentucky dentists to  
26 serve as an educational resource when serving their patients.

27 ➔Section 5. The members of the House of Representatives salute the efforts of

1 dentists to prevent opioid addiction by adolescents in Kentucky and encourage Kentucky  
2 dentists and oral surgeons in their role as champions in their efforts to reduce adolescent  
3 opioid use through adolescent opioid stewardship.

4       ➔Section 6. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
5 copy of this Resolution to Representative Addia Wuchner for delivery.