

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019

SR 23

4  
5 By: Senator Rapert

6  
7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO PROCLAIM "SAVE AR STUDENTS WEEK" AND RAISE PUBLIC  
9 AWARENESS ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC.

10  
11  
12 **Subtitle**

13 TO PROCLAIM "SAVE AR STUDENTS WEEK" AND  
14 RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
15 AND THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC.

16  
17  
18 WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic in the United States has affected many  
19 individuals living in Arkansas; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
22 in 2017 Arkansas had the second-highest opioid prescription rate in the  
23 country at a rate of 105.4% per 100 persons; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
26 Administration, youth ages 18-20 are at the highest risk for illicit drug use  
27 at 22.7% and youth ages 21-25 are at the second highest rate for use; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, the lives of teenagers, young adults, college students, and  
30 their families around the county have been devastated by the effects of  
31 opioid abuse; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, substance abuse is an issue of great concern among four-year  
34 public universities and two-year public community colleges in the state; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Arkansas State



1 University at Jonesboro, Arkansas Tech University, the University of Central  
2 Arkansas, Henderson State University, Southern Arkansas University, the  
3 University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, the University of Arkansas at Little  
4 Rock, the University of Arkansas at Monticello, the University of Arkansas at  
5 Pine Bluff, Arkansas State University - Mountain Home, Cossatot Community  
6 College of the University of Arkansas, East Arkansas Community College,  
7 Northwest Arkansas Community College, Phillips Community College of the  
8 University of Arkansas, the University of Arkansas Community College at  
9 Batesville, the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, the  
10 University of Arkansas Rich Mountain, and the University of Arkansas -  
11 Pulaski Technical College are joining forces to combat substance abuse across  
12 their campuses and across the state; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, these 19 campuses of higher education are locking arms for the  
15 inaugural "Save AR Students" statewide substance abuse awareness week on  
16 March 11-15, 2019; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, these efforts are part of a larger movement combating the  
19 epidemic reaching communities in all parts of the nation; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, addressing the increase in the over-prescription and misuse of  
22 opioids, as well as the issue of increased illicit drug use, greatly benefits  
23 the state and its residents,  
24

25 NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
27 STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
28

29 THAT the Senate commends the effort by institutions of higher education  
30 to address the opioid epidemic and proclaims March 11-15, 2019, as "Save AR  
31 Students Week".  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36