

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023

HCR 1011

4
5 By: Representative Vaught
6 By: Senator B. Johnson

7
8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENCOURAGE
10 THE USE OF UNIT DOSE PACKAGING FOR NARCOTICS AND
11 OPIOIDS TO PRESERVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL
12 CITIZENS OF THIS NATION.

13
14
15 **Subtitle**

16 TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
17 TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF UNIT DOSE
18 PACKAGING FOR NARCOTICS AND OPIOIDS TO
19 PRESERVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL
20 CITIZENS OF THIS NATION.

21
22
23 WHEREAS, the rate of drug overdose deaths in Arkansas, a majority of
24 which are due to the misuse of prescription drugs, has more than tripled
25 since 1999, when the age-adjusted rate was six and one-tenth (6.1) per one
26 hundred thousand (100,000) people, compared to twenty-one and seven-tenths
27 (21.7) per one hundred thousand (100,000) people in 2017; and

28
29 WHEREAS, in recent years the pharmaceutical industry has responded to
30 an increased demand for drug products which are packaged for "unit dose"
31 dispensing or the delivery of a single dose of a drug to the patient at the
32 time of administration; and

33
34 WHEREAS, the drug product is dispensed in a unit dose container which
35 is a non-reusable container designed to hold a quantity of drug intended for
36 administration as a single dose, directly from the container; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the advantages of unit dose dispensing are that the drug is
3 fully identifiable and the integrity of the dosage form is protected until
4 the actual moment of administration; and

5
6 WHEREAS, unit dose packaging for narcotics and other opioids,
7 especially narcotics and opioids affecting memory and cognition, would
8 improve patient compliance, reduce misuse of the prescription drugs, and
9 prevent overdoses and diversion which would save lives across the nation; and

10
11 WHEREAS, encouraging unit dose packaging of narcotics and opioids is
12 practical and patient-friendly and may reduce medication waste for
13 manufacturers of prescription drugs; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the United States Congress, the United States Food and Drug
16 Administration, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration should
17 take action to preserve the health and safety of all citizens of this nation,

18
19 NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

22
23 THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly
24 of the State of Arkansas, the Senate concurring, encourages the United States
25 Congress, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and the United
26 States Drug Enforcement Administration to encourage the use of unit dose
27 packaging for narcotics and opioids by the pharmaceutical industry to
28 preserve the health and safety of all citizens of this nation.

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an
31 appropriate copy be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of
32 Representatives to the United States Food and Drug Administration, the United
33 States Drug Enforcement Administration, the majority leader of the United
34 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and
35 the members of the Arkansas congressional delegation.

36