

**As Reported by the House State and Local Government
Committee**

**132nd General Assembly
Regular Session
2017-2018**

H. R. No. 299

Representatives Young, Ginter

Cosponsors: Representatives Hambley, Boyd, Perales

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith- 1
based community in supporting and assisting 2
individuals who are suffering from opioid and 3
other drug abuse and addiction. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
OHIO:**

WHEREAS, The ever-increasing number of cases of drug 5
overdoses over the past several years, both in Ohio and 6
throughout the United States, has been alarming and yet 7
heartbreaking; and 8

WHEREAS, According to statistics published by the National 9
Institute on Drug Abuse, America has lost at least 568,699 of 10
its citizens from 1999 through 2015 due to drug overdoses, 11
mainly from opioid abuse, demonstrating a nationwide crisis so 12
severe that the opioid epidemic was recently declared at the 13
federal level to be a public health emergency; and 14

WHEREAS, During the period since 1999, the number of deaths 15
caused by drug overdoses in America has been even higher than 16
the number of American lives lost in various wars, as evidenced 17
by military casualty data maintained by the United States 18

Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs: in 19
World War I - 116,516 casualties; in World War II - 405,399 20
casualties; in the Korean War - 36,574 casualties; in the 21
Vietnam War - 58,220 casualties; in the Persian Gulf War - 383 22
casualties; and in the series of campaigns since 2001 known as 23
the Global War on Terror - 5,368 casualties thus far; and 24

WHEREAS, In Ohio specifically, the escalating health crisis 25
being caused by drug overdoses is evident from information 26
gathered by the Ohio Department of Health, which reports that 27
there were at least 4,050 overdose deaths in 2016 alone, while 28
in comparison, there were 411 fatal overdoses in the state in 29
the year 2000; and 30

WHEREAS, There have been numerous accounts of individuals 31
who must be given emergency treatments on multiple occasions 32
with drugs such as naloxone to counteract their overdoses, 33
sometimes even within a single 24-hour period; and 34

WHEREAS, Similarly, there have been numerous reports 35
indicating that coroners and morgues are reaching maximum 36
capacity with respect to the availability of space to 37
accommodate the high volume of fatalities resulting from drug 38
overdoses; and 39

WHEREAS, The personal and social costs of the drug crisis 40
are compounded when taking into consideration the economic toll 41
that is incurred, as pointed out by researchers from the Ohio 42
State University in a recent report in which it was estimated 43
that the total annual cost of opioid abuse, addiction, and 44
overdoses in 2015 ranged from \$6.6 to \$8.8 billion, an amount 45
comparable to the \$8.2 billion expended from the General Revenue 46
Fund and lottery profits for public education (K-12) for the 47
same year; and 48

WHEREAS, In light of the harrowing impact of drug abuse and 49
addiction on our society and the overwhelming strain that is 50

being placed on our state's resources, we must accept that 51
community involvement is desperately needed and be open to 52
finding solutions that are not limited to actions that focus 53
solely on funding, education, medication, or social programs; 54
and 55

WHEREAS, In our search for a means to overcome this tragic 56
situation and to fill the unmet treatment needs of those who 57
find themselves in such dire circumstances, it is of utmost 58
importance to consider the value of the supports that are being 59
made available by the faith-based community in assisting 60
individuals who have been unable to escape the downward spiral 61
of drug abuse and addiction; and 62

WHEREAS, The compassionate nature of the dedicated servants 63
within the faith-based community and the new perspectives their 64
advice and teachings bring to the lives of others have been 65
shown to have high rates of success in empowering individuals to 66
recover from their drug abuse and addiction without falling into 67
relapse; now therefore be it 68

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 69
Representatives of the 132nd General Assembly of the State of 70
Ohio, in adopting this resolution, recognize the valiant efforts 71
and great accomplishments of the faith-based community in 72
offering its empathetic support and caring assistance to all who 73
suffer from the devastating effects of opioid and other drug 74
abuse and addiction and are seeking the sense of personal safety 75
and comfort that comes from relying on the strength of a power 76
greater than ourselves; and be it further 77

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 78
Representatives of the 132nd General Assembly of the State of 79
Ohio, express our wholehearted intent to consider legislation 80
that would provide greater recognition to the faith-based 81
community, including our recognition of its successes and 82

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commitment to combating opioid and other drug abuse and	83
addiction; and be it further	84
RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives	85
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the	86
Governor and the news media of Ohio.	87