



Eta Sigma Gamma

National Professional Health Education Honorary

Opioid Epidemic Resolution

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Whereas prescription opioid overdose deaths have tripled since 1999. Sales of prescription opioids have also tripled (CDC, 2017); and

Whereas between 1999 and 2015, more than 183,000 people died in the U.S. from prescription opioid overdoses, including more than 15,000 prescription opioid overdose deaths in 2015 alone. Recent data reports that 42,000 died people in 2016 (CDC, 2017); and

Whereas nearly 30% of young adults believe it acceptable to take opioids without a prescription (ASA, 2017); and

Whereas the total economic burden of the opioid crisis is estimated to be \$78.5 billion. One-third of this amount is due to increased health care and substance abuse treatment costs (\$28.9 billion). Approximately 1/4 of the cost is incurred by the public sector in health care, substance abuse treatment, and criminal justice costs (Florence, et al., 2016); and

Whereas the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that 41% of 12,000 drug addiction treatment facilities in the US offered at least one kind of medication for opioid addiction (amfAR, 2016); and

Whereas the only new federal effort to dedicate a serious amount of money to the opioid crisis was the Cures Act, which committed \$1 billion over two years (HOR, 2017); now, therefore, let it be

Resolved that Eta Sigma Gamma (ESG) will,

- 1) assist decision-makers in understanding adverse health outcomes associated with prescription opioid use such as overdose, abuse, and dependence.
- 2) encourage decision-makers to pass and implement legislation that will reduce access to opioids.
- 3) educate decision-makers about best practice approaches to address the epidemic.

Resources

American Foundation of Aids Research [amfAR]. (2016). National Opioid Epidemic. Retrieved from <http://opioid.amfar.org/indicator/drugdeaths>

American Society of Anesthesiologists. (2017). Opioid use for pain management across generations. Retrieved from <https://www.asahq.org/about-asahq/newsroom/news-releases/2017/08/orc-survey>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). Opioid overdose. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html>

Florence, C.S., Zhou, C., F., & Xu, L. (2016). The economic burden of prescription opioid, abuse, and dependence in the United States, 2013. *Medical Care*, 54(10), 901-906. doi:10.1097/MLR.0000000000000625.

House of Representatives [HOR]. (2017). Opioid Addiction Crisis. *Congressional Record*, 163(110). Retrieved from <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2017/6/27/house-section/article/H5221-1/article/H5221-1>

Schedule to review 3 years after acceptance (February, 2021)