



HR0665

LRB103 39955 LAW 71084 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)  
3 reported 3,261 opioid-related overdose fatalities in 2022,  
4 representing an estimated 272 lives lost every month as the  
5 State's overdose crisis persists; and

6           WHEREAS, The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office  
7 confirmed that 2,000 opioid-related deaths occurred in Cook  
8 County during 2022, with Black residents comprising 56% of  
9 deaths despite only representing 23% of the county's  
10 population; and

11           WHEREAS, The Opioid Data Dashboard provided by IDPH  
12 vividly demonstrates the extensive reach of opioid-related  
13 overdose across the State; outside of Cook County, the  
14 counties that experience the brunt of fatalities include Will  
15 County, Winnebago County, DuPage County, Lake County, Kane  
16 County, Madison County, St. Clair County, Sangamon County,  
17 McHenry County, and Champaign County; and

18           WHEREAS, Harm reduction is defined as a set of practical  
19 strategies and philosophy aimed at reducing negative  
20 consequences associated with drug use; it is also a movement  
21 for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the  
22 rights of people who use drugs; and

1           WHEREAS, Harm reduction measures help to reduce HIV  
2           transmissions, among other benefits, including assisting in  
3           the prevention against the acquisition of other blood-borne  
4           viruses such as Hepatitis B and C, the prevention of fatal  
5           overdoses, the decrease in encounters with the criminal legal  
6           system, the reduction of social exclusion for people who use  
7           drugs, and the improvement in access to medical care, mental  
8           health support, housing, community support, food, and other  
9           basic needs; and

10           WHEREAS, Extensive research and reports continue to  
11           demonstrate that harm reduction strategies not only save lives  
12           by preventing overdose deaths but also limit State expenses in  
13           response to hospitalizations, emergency calls, and deaths,  
14           promote public safety by diverting hazardous waste from public  
15           spaces, and do not lead to an increase in crime rates; and

16           WHEREAS, Harm reduction operates on the understanding that  
17           recovery is a multifaceted journey and that harm reduction  
18           strategies complement traditional recovery approaches; and

19           WHEREAS, While people who use drugs continue to face  
20           social stigma, they still possess the right to receive access  
21           to housing, education, economic mobility, mental health care,  
22           and a range of services to support a better quality of life;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Harm reduction acknowledges the intersecting  
3 systems of oppression that marginalize people who use drugs  
4 and centers the need for racial, economic, and gender justice  
5 within policies and practices; and

6 WHEREAS, Across the State, harm reductionists tirelessly  
7 dedicate themselves towards mitigating the harms of substance  
8 use and providing critical support to individuals in need, and  
9 it is essential to recognize and appreciate the strain and  
10 labor undertaken by these individuals as they endure secondary  
11 trauma and navigate complex social, economic, and political  
12 landscapes; and

13 WHEREAS, Not a region in the State goes untouched by the  
14 impacts of overdose, and a shared collective interest in  
15 safety forms the solidarity necessary to take urgent action to  
16 prevent further loss of life and devastation within our  
17 communities; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
19 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we declare April 14 through April 20, 2024 as Harm Reduction  
21 Solidarity Week in the State of Illinois in order to raise  
22 awareness about the principles and practices of harm

1 reduction, emphasizing its vital role in public health and  
2 safety; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we encourage communities to engage in  
4 activities that promote education, dialogue, and support for  
5 harm reduction initiatives during Harm Reduction Solidarity  
6 Week; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we recognize the importance of promoting  
8 public health and safety through highlighting proactive  
9 measures like harm reduction coupled with recent legislative  
10 accomplishments, such as expanding comprehensive drug  
11 education in schools and providing wider access to harm  
12 reduction tools, including naloxone, testing strips, and safe  
13 supplies education and distribution; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we acknowledge the dedication and  
15 contributions of harm reductionists and express our gratitude  
16 for their tireless efforts to address substance use-related  
17 harm; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our commitment to supporting  
19 evidence-based harm reduction strategies and to leading with  
20 compassion and humanity in place of perpetuating stigma and  
21 criminalization in order to greatly reduce substance  
22 use-related harm in Illinois.