

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE EALY.

7131H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

1       **WHEREAS**, the disease of addiction, also known as substance use disorder, is a crisis  
2 that touches families in every community and neighborhood in our nation; and

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4       **WHEREAS**, 48.4 million Americans, or 16.8 percent of our nation's population,  
5 suffer from addiction; and

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7       **WHEREAS**, addiction is a chronic, treatable disease with relapse rates similar to  
8 other chronic diseases, but very few Americans who need treatment ever receive it or believe  
9 they need it; and

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11       **WHEREAS**, among the 40.7 million adults who had a substance use disorder in 2024  
12 and did not receive substance use treatment, 95.6 percent, or 38.1 million people, did not  
13 perceive that they needed treatment; and

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15       **WHEREAS**, despite significant investment of resources, addiction recovery efforts  
16 remain fragmented and do not keep pace with scientific advancements; and

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18       **WHEREAS**, the costs of these failures are devastating, not only in lives lost, but also  
19 in the ripple effects across our economy, workforce, and national strength; and

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21       **WHEREAS**, addiction contributes to declining workforce participation, increased  
22 health care costs, homelessness, family instability, and lost productivity that together cost the  
23 United States hundreds of billions of dollars each year; and

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25       **WHEREAS**, the framework for addiction treatment should parallel that of other  
26 chronic diseases — utilizing evidence-based care, scientific advancement, continuous  
27 support, and community connection:

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29           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
30 Representatives of the One Hundred Third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the  
31 Senate concurring therein, hereby:

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33           (1) Formally recognize addiction as a chronic disease;

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35           (2) Advocate for a coordinated, statewide response;

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37           (3) Urge existing Missouri state agencies, departments, and task forces that are  
38 involved in the fields of health, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, housing,  
39 education, workforce development, and criminal justice to continue and strengthen  
40 interagency coordination, data sharing, and community partnerships to expand access to  
41 prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm-reduction services; and

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43           (4) Encourage collaboration with local governments, community- and faith-based  
44 organizations, and health care providers to reaffirm the state's commitment to reducing  
45 overdose deaths, improving recovery outcomes, and supporting individuals and families  
46 affected by substance use disorder; and

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48           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
49 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the  
50 director of each Missouri state agency.

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