

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Supporting the designation of October 2020 as “National Substance Abuse Prevention Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of October 2020 as “National Substance Abuse Prevention Month”.

Whereas initiation of substance use during adolescence is associated with substance use and misuse in adulthood;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 8,000,000 people in the United States aged 12 and older used a controlled substance for the first time;

Whereas, in 2019, an estimated 35,000,000 people in the United States aged 12 and older used an illicit drug, including cocaine and methamphetamine;

Whereas more than 20,000,000 people in the United States aged 12 and older had a substance use disorder in 2019, including more than 8,000,000 individuals who had an illicit drug use disorder;

Whereas, in 2019, an estimated 4,200,000 people in the United States aged 12 and older received some form of substance use disorder treatment;

Whereas, in 2019, an estimated 72,000 lives in the United States were lost to largely preventable drug overdoses;

Whereas illicit drug use and the misuse of prescription opioids costs the United States \$271,500,000,000 annually;

Whereas Federal funding to prevent substance use and misuse was cut by nearly 34 percent between fiscal years 2009 and 2020;

Whereas every dollar invested in substance use and misuse prevention programs can provide a savings of up to \$20 in substance use and misuse treatment, health care, and criminal justice costs;

Whereas Congress has sought to expand access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services through passage of, among other measures, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198; 130 Stat. 695);

Whereas substance use and misuse prevention and treatment organizations in the United States recognize October as “National Substance Abuse Prevention Month”;

Whereas October 24, 2020, is the second anniversary of the enactment of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115-271; 132 Stat. 3894); and

Whereas the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased social isolation for many people in the United States, which

can lead to a greater use and misuse of legal and illegal substances: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports effective programs to prevent sub-
3 stance use and misuse, including community-based
4 prevention programs such as the Drug-Free Commu-
5 nities Support Program;

6 (2) recognizes that certain substances are being
7 misused at higher rates among adults during the
8 COVID-19 pandemic, potentially due to the stress
9 and social isolation associated with the public health
10 emergency;

11 (3) supports additional research and expanded
12 access to effective programs to prevent substance
13 use and misuse during the COVID-19 pandemic;

14 (4) supports programs to help stem the drug
15 addiction and overdose epidemic in the United
16 States; and

17 (5) supports the designation of October 2020 as
18 “National Substance Abuse Prevention Month”.