

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 590

Calling on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a clinical study assessing the effectiveness of treating chronic pain in veterans with cannabis in comparison to opioids.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 2017

Mr. CORREA submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Calling on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a clinical study assessing the effectiveness of treating chronic pain in veterans with cannabis in comparison to opioids.

Whereas prescription opioids are a class of drugs that can relieve pain, but can also be misused, resulting in dependence;

Whereas prescription opioid addiction causes severe physical and mental harm and can result in overdose incidents and deaths;

Whereas our country is facing an unprecedented and devastating prescription opioid overdose epidemic;

Whereas opioid addiction in the United States increased by 493 percent from 2010 to 2016;

Whereas 64,000 Americans died from opioid addiction and overdose in 2016;

Whereas almost 60 percent of veterans returning from deployments in the Middle East and 50 percent of older veterans suffer from chronic pain;

Whereas these rates of chronic pain exceed the reported 30 percent national average of chronic pain within the general American population;

Whereas prescriptions for opioids by the Department of Veterans Affairs have increased by 270 percent since 2003;

Whereas 68,000 veterans have been reported by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be addicted to opioids;

Whereas veterans are roughly twice as likely to become addicted to opioids than are members of the general population;

Whereas veterans are twice as likely to die from an accidental opioid overdose than nonveterans; and

Whereas the President of the United States announced a public health emergency on the opioid crisis on October 26, 2017: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) recognizes the urgency and importance of  
3       finding alternative successful treatments to opioids  
4       to address veterans' health care;

5               (2) recognizes it is imperative to the health and  
6       safety of our veterans that a study be conducted on  
7       the medicinal applications of marijuana for treating

1       wounds resulting from service to our great Nation;  
2       and

3               (3) calls on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to  
4       conduct a clinical study and further research to  
5       evaluate the effects of cannabis in comparison to  
6       opioids in treating service-related health conditions  
7       of veterans.

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