

The National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities

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NASCSA Resolution 2004-04 October 2004 San Diego, California

A Resolution Acknowledging Positive Changes Made in Federal Legislation to Fund Prescription Monitoring Programs, but Opposing H.R. 3015 as Currently Written

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has passed H. R. 3015 in 2004 with provisions to fund state operated prescription monitoring programs, but to do so through a program established within the federal Department of Health and Human Services,

WHEREAS, for twenty years, federal coordination and support for state prescription monitoring programs have been effectively provided by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the Department of Justice

WHEREAS, these federal agencies have helped guide state prescription monitoring programs, have provided information and advice to them, and have managed the federal Harold Rogers Prescription Monitoring Program which provides funding grants to states.

WHEREAS, these federal agencies and states with prescription monitoring programs and their national organizations are working together in a highly effective federal-state partnership that has already created a network of state prescription monitoring programs that afford protection to more than half the nation's population.

WHEREAS, together, these federal agencies and our states are now working to expand that coverage to the rest of the country and to enhance even further the programs that now exist.

WHEREAS, state prescription monitoring programs have proved to be extremely effective in protecting public health and safety by supporting the legitimate use of prescription controlled substances while curtailing the abuse and diversion of these highly addictive drugs.

WHEREAS, not only are DEA and BJA responsive to the regulatory and law enforcement aspects of prescription monitoring programs, these federal agencies understand well the public health and medical care aspects too.

WHEREAS, these federal agencies have already established working relationships, with the health care community, with state medical and pharmacy licensing boards, public health departments and their national organizations, and the pain management community, as exemplified by DEA's work with over 20 pain management groups to produce a consensus statement entitled, *Promoting Pain Relief and Preventing Abuse of Pain Medications: A Critical Balancing Act*.

WHEREAS, state prescription monitoring programs, with full support for DEA and BJA, are now providing prescription profile data to physicians and pharmacists in record numbers and these professionals are expressing gratitude and support for these efforts,

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services has not been involved in the design and development of state prescription monitoring programs.

WHEREAS, removing DEA and BJA as managers of federal grant programs for state prescription monitoring programs and replacing them with DHHS will disrupt the highly successful federal-state partnership that currently exists.

WHEREAS, the current epidemic of prescription controlled substance abuse is such a threat to the public health and safety that the nation cannot afford to have its existing federal-state partnership disrupted by the change that H.R. 3015 would impose.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that while the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities acknowledges the positive changes made in H.R. 3015 since 2003, NASCSA opposes this bill as adopted by the House of Representatives in 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA respectfully requests Congress to assign the funding program for state prescription monitoring programs as proposed in H.R. 3015 to the Department of Justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NASCSA Executive Committee inform the appropriate members of the United States Senate, House of Representatives, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Department of Justice and Drug Enforcement Administration of the policies articulated in this resolution.

ATTEST: _____
President

Date: _____