

RESOLUTION 98-02

WHEREAS, the abuse and dependence of opiates, specifically heroin, is a growing concern with addiction, and

WHEREAS, the treatment of opiate addicted patients are necessary and humane components to a balanced strategy of combating this illicit drug concern, and

WHEREAS, the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) recognizes that the use of Methadone on a maintenance basis and within the context of a carefully designed and monitored program offering rehabilitative services with drug testing, is one modality available and suitable for the treatment and management of opiate dependent patients, and

WHEREAS, NASCSA recognizes and has concern for the possibility of present and future methadone diversion from treatment programs and the subsequent illicit traffic, abuse and frequent mortality associated with opiate abuse, and

WHEREAS, NASCSA through the collective experience of its membership is convinced of the need for adequate regulatory and administrative parameters at the federal and state levels that would require and provide for comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation with proper safeguards against diversion, and,

WHEREAS, NASCSA has been informed of proposed plans of the federal government that would, (1) repeal the current regulations and inspection programs of the Food and Drug Administration, (2) relaxed current restrictions of carry out medications, (3) assign responsibilities for program approval to loosely defined, currently non-existent system of certification boards, (4) assign regulatory responsibilities to questionable agencies with questionable enforcement and inspection background, and (5) establish an entirely new system of dispensing methadone through practitioner office practices or pharmacy site.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NASCSA meet and work with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Drug Enforcement Administration, Food and Drug Administration, SAMSHA and other appropriate agencies to re-examine, pursuant to the importance of methadone treatment, abuse and diversion issues, any proposals for change including but not limited to, (1) specific provisions for funding, training, and deployment of inspection officers to ensure appropriate standards are maintained, (2) concise rules, regulations, and requirements that would provide for comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation without jeopardizing proper safeguards and control against diversion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NASCSA along with these same organizations adequately examine and address these vital issues prior to publication for comment of a proposal from the federal government. Pursuant to the above, NASCSA members will be pleased to provide consultation to this end.

*Adopted October 31, 1998
Charleston, South Carolina*