

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, combating prescription drug abuse is the collective responsibility of Ohio citizens and organizations and is an emotional fight, but one that absolutely has to happen, and happen quickly; and

WHEREAS, the misuse of prescription drugs intended to alleviate disease and eliminate pain can lead to addiction, overdose and death and is a national epidemic; and

WHEREAS, I applaud those who have committed themselves to fight this epidemic and commend the many Ohioans who have taken a stand against prescription drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, more Ohioans die each year as a result of accidental overdoses than in motor vehicle crashes; and

WHEREAS, prescription painkillers accounted for nearly 37 percent of unintentional overdose deaths in Ohio in 2008; and

WHEREAS, fatal and non-fatal poisonings cost Ohioans \$3.6 billion annually, and individuals seeking treatment for opiate addiction account for more than 80 percent of clients requesting publicly-funded addiction services and treatment in some Ohio counties; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's opiate epidemic is a crisis of unparalleled proportions with devastating, often deadly, consequences, and the most culpable substances are the opiate family; and

WHEREAS, people need to take pain pills at different times in their lives for a variety of reasons, but when those pills cause an addiction that ruins a life and a family, we have to act; and

WHEREAS, through House Bill 93, Ohio will fight this battle until addiction to opiates fades away and overdose deaths from prescription drugs are a memory; and

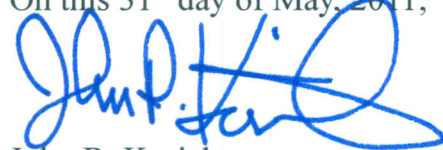
WHEREAS, this past April 30, Ohio participated in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day and recovered more than 10 tons of prescription drugs from Ohio residents and scheduled these unwanted prescription drugs for destruction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby designate June, 2011 as

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

throughout Ohio and encourage all Ohioans to get involved in combatting the malicious effects of prescription drugs abuse.

On this 31st day of May, 2011;



John R. Kasich
Governor

