



SPONSOR: Rep. Seigfried & Sen. Lockman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

DIRECTING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM TO ISSUE LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BUPRENORPHINE PRESCRIBERS.

1 WHEREAS, across America and in Delaware the opioid epidemic is the number one public health crisis; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2018, 400 Delawareans lost their lives to a fatal overdose, while many more experience a non-fatal  
3 overdose; and

4 WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration approved Buprenorphine for clinical use in 2002 to reduce a  
5 patient's urge for opioids; and

6 WHEREAS, buprenorphine acts as a partial agonist at mu and kappa opioid receptors and as an agonist at delta  
7 receptors in the brain which reduces a patient's urge to consume opioids; and

8 WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Consortium, the statewide advisory group, charged with addressing the opioid  
9 epidemic, and the Office of the Lt. Governor received technical and research assistance by the Pew Charitable Trust (Pew)  
10 in addressing the crisis; and

11 WHEREAS, Pew, in March 2019, released a report to document its findings and so outlined 8 critical  
12 recommendations that intend to increase access to care, reform reimbursement structures, and expand the eligible  
13 workforce; and

14 WHEREAS, the Pew report calls to amend the Medical Practice Act to increase prescribing authority for  
15 buprenorphine by physician assistants regardless of the waiver status of their supervising physician; and

16 WHEREAS, Pew and the Consortium wish to increase access to Medication Assisted Treatment, by allowing  
17 additional prescribers to do so, while increasing the brain health workforce as a whole.

18 NOW, THEREFORE:

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY the House of Representatives and Senate of the 150th General Assembly of the State of  
20 Delaware, with the approval of the Governor, that the Behavioral Health Consortium issue legislative and regulatory  
21 recommendations, by January 31, 2020 that can be enacted upon by the 150<sup>th</sup> General Assembly or respective agencies.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that recommendations will call for an increase to access to the total number of  
23 medication assisted treatment prescribers among all providers permitted to do so under federal law by examining, among  
24 any other identified barriers, state law impediments.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such plans shall examine reimbursement for substance use disorder treatment,  
26 state-sponsored training and outreach for providers, and the need to address the Medical Practice Act as it pertains to  
27 physician assistant's ability to prescribe buprenorphine, regardless of the waiver status of their supervising physicians.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Joint Resolution calls on the Behavioral Health Consortium to issue legislative and regulatory recommendations which would increase access to the total number of Medication Assisted Treatment prescribers among all providers.