

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 18, 2018

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 5857 AND
THE EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC**

Introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee

Commissioner Rogers moved for the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Augustine.

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic that is ravaging Michigan communities starts in the family medicine cabinet; and

WHEREAS, each year 960,000 children nationally, between the ages of 12 and 17, initiate prescription drug abuse and many children start in middle school; and

WHEREAS, pilfering, the act of stealing a small number of pills hoping it will go undetected, is the leading source of youth opioid abuse; and

WHEREAS, studies show that nearly 80 percent of heroin users start with a prescription opioid; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act currently in place is nearly 50 years old, yet the landscape of prescription drugs and pain management has drastically changed and some of today's drugs are 80 times stronger than morphine; and

WHEREAS, the outdated child-resistant prescription vials were originally created in 1970, only prevent access by children under 5 and are inadequate; and

WHEREAS, nationally recognized public health agencies, like the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the U.S. Federal Drug Administration have long called for improved packaging of opioids and other Schedule II drugs; and

WHEREAS, requiring opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials will significantly reduce pilfering, save lives and save millions in excess costs to local communities; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that eliminating pilfering would prevent more than 150,000 Michigan teens from initiating abuse, save more than \$1 billion in health care costs, and return \$715 million in lost productivity and criminal justice costs to Michigan's economy over a ten-year period; and

WHEREAS, HB 5857, the Stemming Teenage Opioid Pilfering (STOP)-MI Act, will require opioid and Schedule II manufacturers to bear the cost of each Locking Prescription Vial used to dispense prescriptions; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Legislature needs to act swiftly to update the antiquated prescription vial standards and pass HB 5857.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Eaton County supports House Bill 5857 and the effort to address the opioid epidemic by reducing opioid pilfering. Carried. Nays: Spence.