
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TO ALLOW INJURED PLAYERS TO
USE CANNABIDIOL IN PILL OR LIQUID FORM, IN LIEU OF OPIOIDS,
TO ADDRESS THE PAIN FROM THEIR WORK-RELATED INJURIES.

1 WHEREAS, every day, more than 90 Americans die after
2 overdosing on opioids, including prescription pain relievers,
3 heroin, and synthetic opioids such as illicitly manufactured
4 fentanyl; and
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6 WHEREAS, the misuse of and addiction to opioids is a
7 serious national crisis that affects public health as well as
8 social and economic welfare; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
11 estimates that the total economic burden of prescription opioid
12 misuse alone in the United States is \$78,500,000,000 per year,
13 including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction
14 treatment, and involvement with the criminal justice system; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 2015, more than 33,000 Americans died as a
17 result of an opioid overdose and an estimated 2,000,000
18 individuals in the United States suffered from substance use
19 disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers, and
20 591,000 suffered from a heroin use disorder; and
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22 WHEREAS, approximately 21 to 29 percent of patients who are
23 prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them; between eight
24 and 12 percent develop an opioid use disorder; an estimated four
25 to six percent of individuals who misuse prescription opioids
26 transition to heroin; and about 80 percent of individuals who
27 use heroin first misused prescription opioids; and
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29 WHEREAS, this situation has become a public health crisis
30 with devastating consequences, including increases in opioid
31 misuse and related overdoses as well as a rising incidence of



1 neonatal abstinence syndrome due to opioid use and misuse during
2 pregnancy; and

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4 WHEREAS, the increase in injection drug use has also
5 contributed to the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV and
6 hepatitis C; and

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8 WHEREAS, many National Football League players suffer from
9 serious injuries during their careers due to the nature of their
10 work and are often prescribed opioids to help alleviate the pain
11 from their injuries; and

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13 WHEREAS, the dangers of overuse and abuse of opioids have
14 been well-documented; and

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16 WHEREAS, however, research studies have demonstrated that
17 cannabidiol is non-intoxicating but exerts a number of
18 beneficial pharmacological effects--for instance, cannabidiol is
19 anxiolytic, anti-inflammatory, antiemetic, and antipsychotic;
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, although cannabidiol is a component of marijuana,
23 it does not produce the psychoactive effects that have made
24 marijuana attractive for recreational use; and

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26 WHEREAS, it may be preferable for and beneficial to the
27 health and well-being of injured football players to be allowed
28 to use cannabidiol in pill or liquid form, in lieu of opioids,
29 to address the pain from their work-related injuries; now,
30 therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2018, that the National Football League is urged to allow
35 injured National Football League players to use cannabidiol in
36 pill or liquid form, in lieu of opioids, to address the pain
37 from work-related injuries; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of the National



H.R. NO. 40

1 Football League and the respective General Managers of each of
2 the teams that compose the National Football League.
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OFFERED BY:

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