
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 3 AS TOPICAL STEROID WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME
AWARENESS DAY.

1 WHEREAS, Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome, also known as
2 Topical Steroid Addiction or Red Skin Syndrome, is a severe,
3 debilitating condition that can arise from intentional or
4 unintentional exposure to topical steroids; and
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6 WHEREAS, topical steroids are widely prescribed and
7 purchased over the counter to treat acute and chronic skin
8 conditions, such as eczema, psoriasis, vitiligo, and alopecia
9 areata; and
10

11 WHEREAS, Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome is
12 characterized by skin flushing, inflammation, diffuse spreading
13 rashes, profuse skin flaking, burning, and itching worse than
14 the original condition, which typically appear after the use of
15 topical steroid treatments, between treatments, or after
16 discontinuing the use of topical steroids; and
17

18 WHEREAS, it can take several months to several years for
19 symptoms to subside, leaving some sufferers of Topical Steroid
20 Withdrawal Syndrome bedridden, housebound, and unable to work,
21 care for children, or attend school; and
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23 WHEREAS, a prolonged withdrawal and recovery period can
24 take a significant toll on patients' mental health as well as
25 physical health; and
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27 WHEREAS, eighty-one percent of adults and fifty-six percent
28 of children who experience Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome
29 report feeling anxious or depressed, and forty-seven percent of
30 adults and eleven percent of children who experience Topical
31 Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome report suicidal ideation; and
32



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1 WHEREAS, the prevalence of topical steroid addiction and
2 Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome are unknown due to a
3 scarcity of published research, and the paucity of research on
4 Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome impedes efforts to define
5 diagnostic criteria for this condition; understand its causes,
6 mechanics, and effects; develop appropriate treatment protocols;
7 and educate providers and patients about Topical Steroid
8 Withdrawal Syndrome and proper steroid stewardship; and
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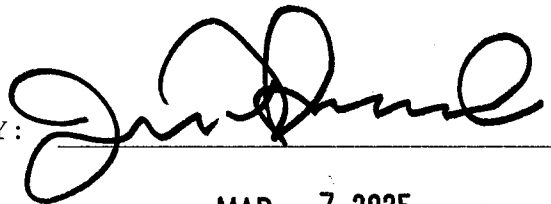
10 WHEREAS, a lack of awareness of and education about Topical
11 Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome can lead to misunderstanding and
12 friction between patients and providers, causing patients to
13 question their providers' medical oversight and providers to
14 suspect their patients of medication non-compliance and,
15 occasionally, parental neglect; and
16

17 WHEREAS, all parties would benefit greatly from increased
18 awareness of and prevention education on the signs of topical
19 steroid dependence and the risks of Topical Steroid Withdrawal
20 Syndrome; now, therefore,
21

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
24 of 2025, that February 3 is recognized as Topical Steroid
25 Withdrawal Syndrome Awareness Day; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor.
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OFFERED BY:

 BR

MAR - 7 2025

