

RESOLUTION NO. R-18-075

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF THE OPIOID EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT IN AN EFFORT TO COMBAT THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG EPIDEMIC THAT HAS BECOME THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH OF AMERICANS UNDER THE AGE OF 50.

WHEREAS, every day more than 115 people in the United States die from opioid-related overdoses and the misuse of and addiction to opioids is a national crisis that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County is located in the greatest impacted district of Florida accounting for a majority of District Twelve's death overdoses, child removals, and Narcan administrations; and

WHEREAS, emergency response teams, law enforcement and treatment entities respond to this epidemic but are limited in their ability to adequately and sufficiently respond to this dynamic issue and Manatee County Commissioners have sought proactive solutions to curb the incidence rate of heroin users, pain management prescription abusers, and overdose death rates in our vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, the Opioid Emergency Response Act would create an innovative new plan to incentivize the use of alternatives to addictive prescription opioids and the bill targets the epidemic through greater research and prevention efforts, expanded access to treatment for those in recovery, and better screening to catch illegal drugs before they enter the country; and

WHEREAS, the bill has the support of Bay Area anti-drug experts and law enforcement officials including Manatee County Sheriff Rick Wells; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County wishes to support the continued efforts of Congressman Vern Buchanan who has been a champion of raising awareness to the opioid epidemic and has confronted it head on by sponsoring legislation that addressed child abuse and child neglect due to substance abuse and he also helped secure millions in federal dollars for anti-drug efforts in 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that Manatee County endorses the Opioid Emergency Response Act and will speak on its behalf during and upcoming visit to our nation's capital in support of local priorities.

DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 8th day of May 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Priscilla Whisenant Trace, Chairman

ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: _____
Deputy Clerk