

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.231

Reps. Slagh, Hoitenga, Alexander, Eisen, Markkanen, Clements, Martin, Green, Carra, Berman and Bezotte offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to oppose the use of federal funds to purchase
2 drug paraphernalia.

3 Whereas, Crack cocaine is a highly addictive and powerful
4 substance that leads to devastating consequences. The National
5 Survey on Drug Use and Health found that over 5 million people used
6 some form of cocaine, including crack, in 2019 alone. Cocaine poses
7 increased risks for infectious diseases such as hepatitis and HIV,
8 as well as physical conditions including stroke, seizures, and
9 shrinking brain size. Cocaine is involved in nearly one in five
10 overdose deaths - a rate that continues to climb every year; and

11 Whereas, Crack has anguished families and communities for

1 decades. Families are left to pick up the pieces when they lose
2 their loved ones to crack addiction. In addition, communities that
3 struggle with drug use can experience increased rates of drug and
4 sex trafficking, along with other crimes. This not only
5 destabilizes communities, but it also places additional burdens on
6 law enforcement who become less available to aid the community and
7 provide essential services; and

8 Whereas, While crack cocaine is inherently dangerous, the
9 method of consumption can exacerbate the risks. Smoking crack
10 produces an immediate and more intense high, thus increasing the
11 likelihood that someone will become addicted to crack. Pipes are a
12 common tool used to smoke crack and present their own risks such as
13 cuts and burns; and

14 Whereas, President Joe Biden plans to use 30 million dollars
15 of federal funding to furnish drug paraphernalia such as syringes
16 and "safe smoking kits" to people with pre-existing drug
17 addictions. The stated goal of the program is to reduce the harm
18 associated with smoking crack cocaine and support overdose
19 prevention; and

20 Whereas, Not only does this plan ignore federal policy that
21 makes it unlawful for any person to sell or offer drug
22 paraphernalia, but it also does nothing to achieve the goal of harm
23 reduction. By enabling addicts through the provision of smoking
24 kits, the federal government is promoting further harm to
25 individuals and communities. Instead of trying to lift up
26 communities that have been devastated by substance use, this plan
27 simply provides the tools they need to dig themselves into deeper
28 despair; now, therefore, be it

29 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we staunchly

1 oppose the use of federal funds to purchase drug paraphernalia; and
2 be it further

3 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
4 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
5 President of the United States Senate, the President of the United
6 States, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.