



NSA Resolution 2016-03

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS

WHEREAS, the number of unintentional overdose deaths involving prescription opioids has more than quadrupled since 1999; and

WHEREAS, the National Sheriff's Association is concerned with the welfare of citizens and desires to preserve the rights of citizens to live and work in communities that are not subjected to the adverse economic, social, and public health effects of prescription drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, studies have estimated the total societal costs of prescription drug abuse in the United States at \$55.7 billion, including \$2.3 billion in correctional facility costs and \$1.5 billion in added law enforcement costs¹; and

WHEREAS, there are now available prescription opioids with abuse-deterrent properties that are designed to resist manipulation of the product for purposes of abuse but still provide patients the same pain relief as non-abuse deterrent opioids; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that the reformulation of an opioid product to include abuse-deterrent properties has resulted in substantial and sustained reductions in abuse of that opioid product^{2,3} as well as a 50% reduction in diversion, which includes robberies, of the product³; and

WHEREAS, a study has estimated that in the U.S. the use of an abuse-deterrent opioid is associated with an estimated \$96 million in criminal justice cost savings⁴;

¹ Birnbaum HG, White AG, Schiller M, Waldman T, Cleveland JM, and Roland CL. Societal costs of prescription opioid abuse, dependence and misuse in the United States. *Pain Medicine* 2011; 12: 657-667

² Dart RC, Surratt HL, Cicero TJ, Parrino MW, Severtson SG, Bucher-Bartelson B, et al. Trends in Opioid Analgesic Abuse and Mortality in the United States. *N Engl J Med.* 2015;372(3):241-8.

³ Severtson SG, Bartelson BB, Davis JM, Muñoz A, Schneider MF, Chilcoat H, Coplan PM, Surratt H, Dart RC. Reduced abuse, therapeutic errors, and diversion following reformulation of extended-release oxycodone in 2010. *J Pain.* 2013;14(10):1122-30.

⁴ Kirson NY, Shei A, White AG, Birnbaum HG, Ben-Joseph R, Rossiter LF, Michna E. Societal economic benefits associated with an extended-release opioid with abuse-deterrent technology in the United States. *Pain Medicine* 2014; 15:1450-1454

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association supports efforts to reduce barriers to appropriate access to and coverage of opioids with abuse-deterrent properties.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the National Sheriffs' Association who have now Amended & Restated NSA Resolution 2016-03, on June 25, 2016 at the Annual Conference of the National Sheriffs' Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota. This resolution to remain in effect until June 26, 2020, in accordance with Article XIII, Section 6 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Sheriffs Association.