



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Joint State Government Commission
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**SUMMARY of the Report of the Task Force and Advisory Committee on Opioid
Prescription Drug Proliferation**

Released: June 2015

2014 House Resolution 659 directed the Joint State Government Commission to establish a legislative Task Force and appoint an Advisory Committee to study the problems wrought by the proliferation of prescription opioid medications, and develop recommendations to combat the proliferation, illicit use, and abuse of opioid prescription drugs in Pennsylvania.

The *Report of the Task Force and Advisory Committee on Opioid Prescription Drug Proliferation* presents a comprehensive review of the problems of illicit use and abuse, and the actions being taken by state agencies, healthcare and addiction service providers, and law enforcement. The report includes the Advisory Committee's recommendations to further curtail the tragic consequences of opioid abuse.

Importantly, the Advisory Committee calls on the General Assembly to fully fund the Commonwealth's nascent prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP), which was created by Act 191 of 2014, the Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program (ABC-MAP). Further recommendations include continued support for the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' ongoing work to establish guidelines for prescribing opioid medications, improved education and licensing regulations for prescribers and dispensers, and enforcement of federal and state insurance laws that guarantee health benefits for addiction services.

The report concludes with stories submitted by people who had lost loved ones to the tragedy of opioid addiction. The Task Force, Advisory Committee, and staff of the Joint State Government Commission thank them for their resolve to contribute.

The full report is available on our website: <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/>