

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 295

To express the sense of the Senate concerning the development of effective methods for eliminating the use of heroin.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 9 (legislative day, OCTOBER 2), 1998

Mr. COATS (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. COVERDELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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## RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Senate concerning the development of effective methods for eliminating the use of heroin.

Whereas heroin use in the United States continues to increase;

Whereas drug use among teenagers in the United States is increasing and the number of teenagers that are using heroin for the first time is higher than any other number previously determined;

Whereas between 1992 and 1996, heroin use among college-age students increased an estimated 10 percent;

Whereas an estimated 810,000 chronic heroin addicts live in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 115,000 heroin addicts in the United States are currently participating in methadone programs;

Whereas methadone is a synthetic opiate and the use of methadone in treatment for heroin addiction results in the transfer of addiction from one drug to another drug;

Whereas heroin addicts and methadone addicts are unable to function as self-sufficient, productive members of society;

Whereas methadone addicts who attempt to become drug free experience the same difficult withdrawal process as that experienced by heroin addicts;

Whereas the Clinton Administration, through the Office of National Drug Control Policy, is directing the drug policy of the United States toward the wrong goals by announcing a new heroin policy;

Whereas that heroin policy would double the number of heroin addicts transferred to methadone addiction, loosen controls with respect to the licensing of methadone dispensers, and promote methadone addiction as the principal means of ending heroin addiction;

Whereas no official responsible for that policy has consulted with Congress concerning that policy and the Clinton Administration lacks sufficient statutory and budgetary authority to carry out that policy; and

Whereas in promoting methadone addiction as the preferred treatment for heroin addiction, the Clinton Administration has abandoned heroin addicts to a lifetime of Government-sponsored drug dependency: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

1           (1) the Federal Government should adopt a  
2 zero-tolerance drug-free policy that has as its prin-  
3 cipal objective the elimination of drug abuse and ad-  
4 diction, including both methadone and heroin;

5           (2) Congress should conduct a thorough exam-  
6 ination of the national drug control policy of the  
7 United States to determine the reasons for the fail-  
8 ure of methadone and methadone maintenance pro-  
9 grams to eliminate heroin addiction;

10          (3) Congress should carefully examine alter-  
11 native approaches to curing heroin addiction, and  
12 focus on treatments that eliminate dependence on,  
13 or addiction to, any substance or drug; and

14          (4) Congress should work with the Clinton Ad-  
15 ministration to develop an effective drug control pol-  
16 icy that—

17               (A) includes a clear and comprehensive  
18 strategy to provide for a transition to a zero-  
19 tolerance, drug-free program that is based on  
20 detoxification and the comprehensive treatment  
21 of the pathology of drug addiction;

22               (B) addresses other human needs that con-  
23 tribute to recidivism among recovering heroin  
24 addicts; and

1                   (C) provides opportunities for former ad-  
2                   dicts to become self-sufficient, productive mem-  
3                   bers of society.

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