

# A-Engrossed House Concurrent Resolution 16

Ordered by the House April 5  
Including House Amendments dated April 5

Sponsored by Representative CLEM

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Recognizes addiction as disease.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2 Whereas views on addiction vary widely between the scientific community and the public; and  
3 Whereas the disease model of addiction is currently the most widely held view of addiction  
4 among the scientific community; and

5 Whereas historically addiction has been regarded as a social problem to be addressed with so-  
6 cial solutions; and

7 Whereas these perceptions have been given new dimension following emerging scientific evi-  
8 dence that addiction requires treatment as a health problem as well as a social problem; and

9 Whereas behavioral psychologists have found that there are a variety of risk factors that can  
10 lead to addiction beyond the voluntary act of initial use, including genetics, peer pressure, existing  
11 psychological disorders, anxiety, depression and the quality of an individual's home life; and

12 Whereas addiction is a consequence of fundamental changes in brain function and reorganiza-  
13 tion of the brain's motivational center; and

14 Whereas researchers have isolated a number of genes, hormones and chemicals in the brain that  
15 are directly related to certain types of addictions—a development that could lead to the creation  
16 of drugs that treat specific addictions; and

17 Whereas understanding addiction as a disease has broad implications for the ability to provide  
18 effective treatment for individuals experiencing addiction and the ability to find sustainable sol-  
19 utions to public health and social issues resulting from addiction; now, therefore,

### **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

20 That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, declare that addiction is a  
21 chronic, relapsing brain disease affecting an individual's behavior; and be it further

22 Resolved, That prevention and treatment of addiction should address biological, behavioral and  
23 environmental factors that contribute to the development and progression of the disease.  
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**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.