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The Restriction of Prescription Drugs in Health Care

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The Restriction of Prescription Drugs in Health Care

Mason Zopp
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Senate Bill 273

The Bill that I decided to take a position on was Senate Bill 273 placing a restriction on the use of certain prescription drugs.

In Support of SB 273

I am in full agreement with Senate Bill 273 placing a restriction on prescription drug use by health care professionals because of the large cost, addiction, and death that the use of prescription drugs continues to bring to this nation if unhalted. Therefore, I stand by this bill in hopes that these tragedies might be remedied by these restrictions placed on their use.

Prescription addiction has become a pandemic

- According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), Prescription Drug Addiction has plagued about 20% (lifetime) of just 12th graders in the US as of 2014, not to mention the many other groups out there misusing drugs.
- The addiction progressively takes control of their lives and actions until they are fully being controlled by the need for the drug itself (NIDA).



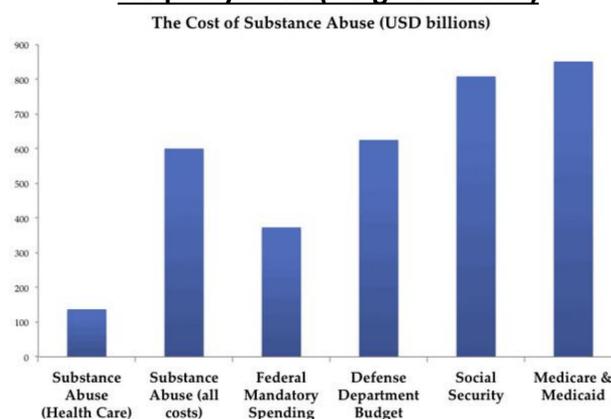
Summary Statement and Impact

This bill is severely important because it is a growing issue especially in our state of West Virginia even today. Not only is prescription drug abuse costing the nation billions more every year, as stated from NIDA in the evidence above, but more than 29,700 lives of Americans (as in 2015) with more of the deaths befalling younger populations each and every year. With the growing addiction and appeal to the younger population, It is clear that the impact of the bill that has already been passed restricting the use of prescription drugs will begin to repair this destruction, possibly saving thousands of lives and billions of dollars by placing restrictions in response to this pressing issue. Hopefully, the impact will become more and more beneficial and apparent as time progresses and more and more restrictions come.

Prescription drug abuse costs the nation billions

- According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, substance abuse even suffers the Nation well over \$600 billion annually mainly from imprisonment which costs \$24,000 per person.
- It has become certain that drug addiction treatment costs over 5 times less than imprisonment costing only \$4,700 per person. It would be to the monetary benefit of both the nation and the individual to employ more treatment and restriction on drug users by a 12:1 ratio of savings to costs (NIDA).

Graph by NIDA (drugabuse.com)



Prescription drug abuse kills thousands

- When the prescription drug users continue to use, the does eventually becomes too strong and it is very likely that the individual will overdose and die from their uncontrollable addiction (NIDA).
- According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, more than 29,700 people died from prescription drug overdoses in 2015, many of them increasingly younger than the years before, with more and more deaths since the 1990s.

