

Rep. Segal offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 64.

A resolution to declare April 30, 2011, as Prescription Drug Take Back Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The abuse of prescription drugs is the fastest-growing drug problem in the United States and has become increasingly prevalent among teens and young adults. Abuse of prescription pain killers now ranks second, only behind marijuana, as the nation's most prevalent illegal drug problem; and

Whereas, Many Americans benefit from the appropriate use of prescription pain killers, but when abused, they can be as addictive and dangerous as illegal drugs; and

Whereas, Teens are turning away from street drugs and using prescription drugs to get high. After marijuana, the most common drugs teens are abusing are prescription medications; and

Whereas, Too many teens believe the myth that these drugs provide a medically safe high. The majority of teens get prescription drugs easily and for free, often from friends or relatives; and

Whereas, Improperly disposed of medications are a risk to the environment. Water treatment and waste facilities are not equipped to prevent these pollutants from entering the environment. Our rivers, streams, ground water, coastal marine environments, and drinking water sources are all at risk; and

Whereas, Prescription drug abuse poses a unique challenge because of the need to balance prevention, education, and enforcement with the need for legitimate access; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Michigan House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare April 30, 2011, as Prescription Drug Take Back Day in the state of Michigan. Our residents can dispose of unused medications in ways that are safe, legal and environmentally friendly. We urge all citizens to recognize the full risk of prescription drug abuse and improper disposal and encourage communities, businesses, and families to take part in reducing prescription drug abuse through education and proper disposal.