

## House Resolution 1049 (RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Hugley of the 141<sup>st</sup>, Griffin of the 149<sup>th</sup>, Berry of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Park of the 107<sup>th</sup>, and Jones of the 143<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the Wednesday of the last week in October of each year as Fentanyl and Opioid  
2 Awareness Day in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Red Ribbon Campaign is the oldest, largest drug prevention program in the  
4 United States, and Red Ribbon Week, held annually October 23 through 31, is a time when  
5 schools and communities focus on young people living safe, healthy, and drug-free lives; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Health reports that from 2019 to 2021, the  
7 total number of opioid-related overdose deaths increased from 853 to 1,718, and more than  
8 half were attributed to fentanyl; and

9 WHEREAS, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100  
10 times more potent than morphine, and is inexpensive, widely available, and highly addictive,  
11 and comes in a variety of colors, shapes, and forms; and

12 WHEREAS, many colleges and universities are making naloxone, an antidote for opioid  
13 poisoning, accessible on campus at clinics and counseling centers, the campus police, or in  
14 vending machines in resident halls; and

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15 WHEREAS, fentanyl use and abuse are happening at middle schools and high schools, and  
16 the best way to protect students from substance use and abuse is having regular and open  
17 conversations to educate them about the risks, dangers, and effects of fentanyl use and abuse;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, fentanyl overdoses are happening at middle schools and high schools, and the  
20 best way to counter an overdose is raising awareness of the symptoms of an overdose,  
21 offering students a reliable space to seek help, and having naloxone readily available at the  
22 school nurse's office; and

23 WHEREAS, on Fentanyl and Opioid Awareness Day and throughout the year, Georgia  
24 policymakers can and should make it their number one priority to encourage all Georgia  
25 students to live safe, healthy, and drug-free lives by providing educational materials and  
26 overdose prevention kits at middle schools and high schools.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE HOUSE OF  
28 REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body designate the Wednesday of the last  
29 week in October of each year as Fentanyl and Opioid Awareness Day in Georgia.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
31 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
32 public and the press.