

Resolution No. 8

Date: 7/28/2018

City: Portland, OR

NAHB Resolution

Title: Substance Abuse in the Workplace
Sponsor: Construction Liability, Risk Management, and Building Materials Committee;
Construction Safety & Health Committee
Submitted by: Jim Zengel, J. Gary Hill

WHEREAS, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury-related death in the United States, eclipsing deaths from motor vehicle crashes or firearms;

WHEREAS, approximately 64,000 Americans lost their lives to drug overdoses in 2016, which was the highest drug death toll and fastest increase in that death toll in American history;

WHEREAS, this epidemic is being driven primarily by opioids, such as the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription;

WHEREAS, opioid abuse is linked to problems with workplace productivity and safety;

WHEREAS, a 2017 study revealed that construction workers are among the most susceptible to opioid abuse, second only to food service industry employees;

WHEREAS, in October 2017, President Trump declared the opioid crisis a Nationwide Public Health Emergency;

WHEREAS, marijuana (also known as Cannabis) is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States;

WHEREAS, marijuana remains illegal at the federal level as a Schedule I drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act;

WHEREAS, a total of 29 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico now allow for comprehensive public medical marijuana and cannabis programs;

WHEREAS, ten states have enacted laws that legalize recreational marijuana;

WHEREAS, marijuana can impair cognition, attention and intellectual performance; and

WHEREAS, employees unfit for work as a result of drug use put themselves and other people at the workplace at risk of harm,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) support efforts to combat substance abuse issues in the workplace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB develop coalitions and partnerships with entities who share similar interests in addressing the substance abuse issues at the federal and state level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB urge Congress to continue its support for efforts to reduce dependence on drugs and alcohol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB treat opioids, marijuana, alcohol, and other drug use in the workplace as primarily a workplace safety issue.

Board of Directors Action:	APPROVED
Executive Board Action:	Recommends Approval
Resolutions Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Custom Home Builders Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Construction Safety and Health Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Business Management & Information Technology Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
NAHB Remodelers Board of Trustees Action:	Recommends Approval
State & Local Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Single Family Builders Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Federal Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Construction Liability, Risk Management, and Building Materials Committee Action:	Recommends Approval