

Health Policy

From Dykema

Re: 5857  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, April 23, 2018  
Contact: Ryan Bridges, Byrum & Fisk Communications, (517) 333-1606

## **Rep. Bellino, supporters announce legislation to reduce opioid pilfering and abuse**

### *Bill to protect Michigan families from growing opioid epidemic*

**MONROE, MI** – State Rep. **Joseph Bellino** (R- Monroe) was joined by a group of supporters, local families and law enforcement for a press conference in the vestibule of St. Mary's Catholic Central to announce new legislation to eliminate opioid pilfering. Rep. Bellino is the lead sponsor of HB 5857, **Stemming Teenage Opioid Pilfering (STOP-MI)**.

"It's time we do something to protect Michigan families from the dangers of opioid abuse caused by pilfering, which is why I am introducing this common-sense legislation," said Rep. Joe Bellino. "This bill will modernize an antiquated law and require opioids and other Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in locking prescription vials designed to eliminate pilfering."

Pilfering, the act of sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading source for youth opioid abuse. Studies show, each year nearly 600,000 children from across the country between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant prescription vials currently in use have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from gaining access to aspirin. Today, the medicines being prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

"My bout with opioid addiction started with pilfering as an adult," said **Chris Clark**, a baseball and football coach at Monroe High School. "The child resistant vials currently being used are outdated and do little to stop someone from taking a few pills without being noticed. We need to make it harder for people to gain access to other people's highly addictive prescription drugs, and this legislation will do that."

Leading public health organizations have called for improved packaging of opioids and other addictive medications for several years. Requiring **Locking Prescription Vials** is a low-cost way for Michigan to modernize the antiquated federal law responsible for making pilfering a nationwide epidemic.

It is estimated that eliminating pilfering would prevent more than 150,000 Michigan teens from initiating abuse, save more than \$1 billion in health care costs and return more than \$715 million in lost productivity and criminal justice costs to the state's economy over a 10-year period.

"Opioid addiction has been a growing problem in our state for many years. In my role as Chief, I have seen first-hand how it has ravaged our community and destroyed countless lives and families in the process. The legislation Rep. Bellino announced today will help slow this dangerous epidemic by making it tougher for children and teens to start using opioids and other highly addictive medication recreationally and I fully support it," said **Chief Charles McCormick** of the Monroe Police Department.

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## **Rep. Bellino announces legislation to reduce opioid pilfering and abuse**

### *Legislation would protect Michigan families from growing opioid epidemic*

LANSING— State Rep. **Joseph Bellino** (R-Monroe) was joined today by a coalition of lawmakers from across the state to announce new legislation to eliminate opioid pilfering. Rep. Bellino is the lead sponsor of **HB 5857, the Stemming Teenage Opioid Pilfering (STOP - MI) bill**.

"It's time we do something to protect Michigan families from the dangers of opioid abuse caused by pilfering, which is why I am introducing this common-sense legislation," said Bellino. "This bill will modernize an antiquated law and require opioids and other Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in locking prescription vials designed to eliminate pilfering."

Pilfering, the act of sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading source of youth opioid abuse. Studies show each year nearly 600,000 children from across the country between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant prescription vials currently in use have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from gaining access to aspirin. Today, the medicines being prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

"The landscape of prescription drugs and pain management has changed tremendously since the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was developed in 1970," said State Rep. **Stephanie Chang** (D-Detroit). "I stand with Rep. Bellino because it is critical we act now to make it tougher for children to get their hands on these highly addictive pills and reduce pilfering. STOP-MI is the first step in making that happen."

Leading public health organizations have called for improved packaging of opioids and other addictive medications for several years. Requiring Locking Prescription Vials is a low-cost way for Michigan to modernize the antiquated federal law responsible for making pilfering a nationwide epidemic.

It is estimated that eliminating pilfering would prevent more than 150,000 Michigan teens from initiating abuse, save more than \$1 billion in health care costs and return more than \$715 million in lost productivity and criminal justice costs to the state's economy over a 10-year period.

"Opioid abuse has ravaged communities across the Upper Peninsula and it's time we take a stand and protect families from the dangers of pilfering," said Rep. **Beau LaFave** (R-Iron Mountain). "Modernizing an antiquated law by requiring opioids and other Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials will reduce pilfering and keep children from ever starting on a path toward opioid addiction."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 30, 2018

Contact: Ryan Bridges, 517-333-1606

## **Lucido announces support for legislation to reduce teen opioid pilfering, abuse**

### *HB 5857 would protect Macomb County families from Michigan's growing opioid epidemic*

**SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN**— State Rep Peter Lucido (R-Shelby Township) today announced his support for HB 5857, new legislation aimed at reducing opioid pilfering and abuse in communities across Michigan.

"Opioid abuse is a public health crisis that has destroyed countless lives and families in Macomb County and across Michigan," said Lucido. "This legislation is a first step in the right direction to address the role pilfering plays in this epidemic. Far too many of Michigan's children and teens initiate abuse by pilfering and we need to make it harder for them to get their hands on these dangerous and addictive drugs."

Sponsored by Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe), the legislation would require that opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials. It is anticipated the measure would prevent 150,000 young people from initiating drug abuse over a 10-year-period.

Pilfering is the act of stealing someone else's prescription medication for recreational use with the hope that it will go undetected. Pilfering has been identified as the leading source of youth opioid abuse, and studies show each year nearly 600,000 children from across the country initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant prescription vials currently in use have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted and child-resistant vials were designed in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from gaining access to aspirin. Today, the medicines being prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

"Child-resistant vials are outdated and have been found to be ineffective in preventing pilfering," said Lucido. "For the last few years, nationally recognized public health organizations like Johns Hopkins have been advocating for improvements to the way opioids and other Schedule II drugs are dispensed. By passing HB 5857, and requiring Locking Prescription Vials, we will prevent pilfering and protect Michigan children, teens and families from this epidemic."

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## **Families Against Narcotics calls on Michigan Legislature to support Locking Prescription Vial legislation**

### *HB 5857 would help reduce teen opioid pilfering*

**Grand Rapids, MI** – The statewide community support and advocacy group, **Families Against Narcotics (FAN)**, today announced its support for HB 5857 and urged legislators across the state to pass this important legislation without delay.

“This legislation will help to reduce the number of Michigan children and teens that start abusing prescription pills by making it harder for them to pilfer from the family medicine cabinet,” said **Judge Linda Davis**, Executive President of FAN. “I am proud to stand in full support of this bill and sincerely hope that legislators across the state will join together to approve it without delay. We need all hands on deck to make sure HB 5857 becomes law because it will save lives.”

Pilfering is the act of stealing someone else’s prescription medication for recreational use with the hope that it will go undetected. Pilfering has been identified as the leading source of youth opioid abuse, and studies show each year nearly 600,000 children from across the country initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering.

Sponsored by Rep. **Joe Bellino** (R-Monroe), the legislation would require that opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials. Experts believe the measure would prevent 150,000 young people from initiating drug abuse over a 10-year-period.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant prescription vials currently in use have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted and child-resistant vials were designed in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from gaining access to aspirin. Today, the medicines being prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

“With chapters across the state, Families Against Narcotics is on the front lines, helping people directly impacted by this epidemic,” said Davis. “By modernizing the outdated packaging used to dispense and store opioids, this bill will have a tremendous positive impact, saving lives in communities statewide and saving millions in health care costs.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, June 11, 2018  
Contact: Ryan Bridges, Byrum & Fisk Communications, (517) 333-1606

## **Michigan Association for Local Public Health backs legislation requiring opioids be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials**

*HB 5857 will help reduce opioid pilfering among children and teens*

**ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MI** – The Michigan Association for Local Public Health, the legislative and policy advocate for Michigan's local public health institutions, today announced its support for HB 5857 and urged its membership of local health departments to do the same.

"Local public health departments are the boots on the ground tasked with managing public health crises to prevent injury, death and the spread of diseases," said **Annette Mercatante**, MD, MPH, St. Clair County Medical Health Officer. "In St. Clair County, we have been on the frontlines of the opioid crisis, collecting data, doing community outreach and educating the public about the dangers of opioids, and there is still work to be done. It's time for our legislators in Lansing to step up and make it harder for children and teens to access opioids."

Pilfering, also known as diversion, is the act of stealing someone else's prescription medication for recreational use with the hope that it will go undetected. Pilfering was identified as the leading source of youth opioid abuse. Studies show that every year, nearly 600,000 children and teens from across the country initiate opioid abuse by pilfering.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant prescription vials currently being used have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted and child-resistant vials were designed in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from accessing the family supply of aspirin. Today, the medications prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

Sponsored by Rep. **Joe Bellino** (R-Monroe), the legislation would require opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in **Locking Prescription Vials**. Experts believe the measure would prevent 150,000 Michigan children and teens from starting a cycle of opioid abuse over a 10-year-period.

"One way to stem the opioid epidemic in Michigan is to make it more difficult for children and teens to get their hands on opioids that were not prescribed to them," Mercatante said.

"Requiring these addictive medications be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials will greatly reduce diversion. We fully support HB 5857 and urge lawmakers in Lansing to do the right thing and vote to keep opioids out of the hands of Michigan's children and teens."

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To learn more about the Michigan Association for Local Public Health, visit [www.malphp.org](http://www.malphp.org).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, June 12, 2018  
Contact: Ryan Bridges, Byrum & Fisk Communications, (517) 333-1606

## **Michigan Fraternal Order of Police supports new legislation to reduce opioid pilfering among children and teens**

*HB 5857 will require opioids be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials*

**LANSING, Mich.** – The Michigan Fraternal Order of Police, the state chapter of the nation's largest organization for police officers, today announced its support for House Bill 5857. The legislation will modify outdated legislation and require opioids be dispensed in **Locking Prescription Vials**.

"The role of law enforcement is to serve and protect our communities from harm, and opioid abuse is certainly a serious issue that has harmed families and communities across the state," said **Joe Adams**, President of the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police. "By modernizing the outdated prescription vials used to dispense opioids we will make it tougher for children and teens to pilfer from the family medicine cabinet."

Pilfering is the act of stealing someone else's prescription medication for recreational use hoping it will go undetected. Pilfering has been identified as the leading source of youth opioid abuse. Studies show that nearly 600,000 children and teens from across the country initiate opioid abuse by pilfering every year.

Sponsored by Rep. **Joe Bellino** (R-Monroe), the legislation would require opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials. Experts believe the measure would prevent 150,000 Michigan children and teens from starting a cycle of opioid abuse over a 10-year-period.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant prescription vials currently being used have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted and child-resistant vials were designed in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from accessing the family supply of aspirin. Today, the medications prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

"Our goal is to keep drugs out of the hands of Michigan children and teens," said **Dave Hiller**, Executive Director of the Fraternal Order of Police. "We support HB 5857 because it will save lives by making it tougher for youth to pilfer from unsuspecting family members. We urge other law enforcement organizations to get behind this legislation and encourage lawmakers in Lansing to keep opioids out of the hands of Michigan children and teens."

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To learn more about the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police, visit [www.mifop.com](http://www.mifop.com).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, July 2, 2018  
Contact: Ryan Bridges, Byrum & Fisk Communications, (517) 333-1606

## **Recent Detroit Free Press report shows urgent need to pass Stemming Teen Opioid Pilfering – MI bill**

*HB 5857 will reduce opioid pilfering, the leading source of youth opioid abuse*

**MONROE, Mich.** – A state representative called for swift action that would stem the state's opioid crisis in response to a recent *Detroit Free Press* article that showed opioid abuse has claimed the lives of even more Michiganders than previously reported. The June 28 article, based on findings from a study conducted by the University of Pittsburgh, identified more than 200 additional people who died from opioid overdoses in 2015.

"The findings of this report are disturbing and added reasons that my colleagues need to act swiftly and pass my bill, **House Bill 5857**, the Stemming Teen Opioid Pilfering-MI bill," said State Rep. **Joe Bellino** (R-Monroe). "HB 5857 will modify the outdated federal standards on opioid packaging and modernize the ineffective child-resistant prescription vials we currently use by requiring opioids be dispensed and stored in locking prescription vials. This bill will reduce opioid pilfering and protect thousands of Michigan teens from starting a cycle of abuse."

Pilfering, which is sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading cause of youth opioid abuse. Each year 960,000 children, nationwide, between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse and many children start in middle school. Even worse, research shows that 80 percent of heroin addicts start out using prescription opioids.

The child-resistant prescription vials currently in use were originally created in 1970 with a goal of preventing access by children age 5 and younger. However, today's universe of medications is stronger and more addictive. Some have been found to be 80 times stronger than morphine.

Nationally recognized public health organizations like the FDA and Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins have been calling for improved packaging of these highly addictive drugs for several years.

"The low-cost locking prescription vials this bill requires will prevent pilfering and ensure addictive prescription drugs are accessible only by those who they are prescribed to," said Bellino. "Passing this bill will prevent more than 150,000 Michigan teens from initiating abuse, save more than \$1 billion in health care costs and return \$715 million in lost productivity and criminal justice costs to the state's economy. We must act now to stop this epidemic from impacting the lives of more Michigan families."

HB 5857 has received support from **Families Against Narcotics**, a Michigan based nonprofit dedicated to educating communities about substance abuse, the **Michigan Fraternal Order of Police** and the **Michigan Association of Local Public Health**.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018  
Contact: Ryan Bridges, Byrum & Fisk Communications, 517-333-1606

## **State Rep. Joe Bellino hosts town hall to discuss Michigan's opioid epidemic, impact of House Bill 5857**

*HB 5857 will reduce pilfering, require opioids and other Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials*

MONROE, Mich. – State Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe) hosted a town hall meeting Wednesday to discuss the opioid epidemic's impact on communities across Michigan, and the role House Bill 5857 will play in reducing pilfering and protecting Michigan youth from initiating the cycle of abuse.

Rep. Bellino was joined by speakers Mike Hirst, founder of Andy's Angels; Ken Daniels, announcer for the Detroit Red Wings; and Dede Meiring, founder of the Dylan Meiring Just Say No campaign. Dozens of people attended the forum and heard heart-wrenching stories of the opioid epidemic's impact on families.

"The opioid epidemic's impact is growing by the day and it is imperative we act swiftly to pass legislation that will protect thousands of Michigan families," said Bellino. "House Bill 5857 will modernize an outdated law by requiring opioids and other Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials and drastically reduce youth pilfering."

Pilfering is the act of stealing a few pills, hoping it will go undetected. Opioid pilfering is the number one source for youth opioid abuse, and many youths start experimenting with prescription pills in middle school. Research shows each year nearly 600,000 children from across the country between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering.

The child-resistant prescription vials currently being used are ineffective and outdated, and have not been modified since being released nearly 50 years ago. When they were released in 1970, their main goal was to prevent children under age 5 from overdosing on flavored baby aspirin. The medications currently being prescribed for pain management have been found to be nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

"Opioid abuse has devastated families and communities across the state and it's time we do something to protect them and their children from being impacted by this epidemic," Meiring said. "House Bill 5857 is commonsense legislation that would make it tougher for children and teens to pilfer from the family medicine cabinet, while protecting our state's most vulnerable residents."

Nationally recognized Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have been calling for improved packaging of these highly addictive drugs for several years.



HB 5857 has received support from **Families Against Narcotics**, a Michigan-based nonprofit dedicated to educating communities about substance abuse, the **Michigan Fraternal Order of Police** and the **Michigan Association for Local Public Health**.

“Opioid abuse has ravaged communities across our state, and Families Against Narcotics supports HB 5857 because it will save lives, prevent initiation and help prevent additional Michigan families from being impacted by this epidemic,” said **Judge Linda Davis**, President of Families Against Narcotics.

Experts believe HB 5857 will prevent more than 150,000 Michigan teens from initiating abuse, save more than \$1 billion in health care costs and return more than \$715 million in lost productivity and criminal justice costs to the state’s economy over a 10-year-period.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018

Contact: Ryan Bridges, **BYRUM & FISK ADVOCACY COMMUNICATIONS**, 517-333-1606

## **CDC report: In 2017, drug overdoses claimed more Michigan lives than traffic and firearm deaths combined**

*Report's findings reinforce need for action to address addiction, protect teens from prescription drug abuse*

**Monroe, Mich.** – A recent report from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revealed in 2017 drug overdoses were responsible for the deaths of 2,662 Michiganders, more than the number of traffic and firearm deaths combined. The overdose deaths represent an 82 percent increase over five years and an eight percent jump from 2016.

"The CDC's findings are staggering and I am reminded of how crucial it is for us to take action to protect more Michiganders from opioid addiction," said State Rep. Joe Bellino. "House Bill 5857 is a step in the right direction because it will save lives and protect Michigan youth from starting the cycle of abuse."

The CDC estimates the report actually underreports the total number of drug overdose related deaths by about eight percent, because their numbers track cause of death from death certificates and "pending investigation" was listed on several certificates.

The report also noted that experts attribute the drastic increase in prescription drug deaths to the increased potency of pain medications and more Michiganders having opioid/ Schedule II prescriptions.

In April, Rep. Bellino introduced HB 5857, which will require opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials. Experts believe the measure will prevent 150,000 Michigan children and teens from starting a cycle of abuse over a 10-year-period.

Pilfering, which is sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading cause of youth opioid abuse. Each year 960,000 children, nationwide, between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse and many children start in middle school. Even worse, research shows that 80 percent of heroin addicts start out using prescription opioids.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant vials currently being used have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When created in 1970, the goal was to prevent children age 5 and younger from accessing the family supply of aspirin. However, today's universe of medications is stronger and more addictive and some have been found to be 80 times stronger than morphine.

Nationally recognized Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have been calling for improved packaging of these highly addictive drugs for several years.

“By requiring opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in locking prescription vials, HB 5857 will reduce pilfering and make it tougher for children and teens to access these addictive drugs,” said Bellino. “Opioid abuse has claimed the lives of far too many Michiganders and is showing no signs of slowing down. We must act now to stop this epidemic from impacting more Michigan families.”

HB 5857 has received support from **Families Against Narcotics**, a Michigan based nonprofit dedicated to educating communities about substance abuse, the **Michigan Fraternal Order of Police** the **Michigan Association for Local Public Health** and the **Eaton County Board of Commissioners** recently passed a resolution in support of the bill.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2018

CONTACT: Ryan Bridges, BYRUM & FISK ADVOCACY COMMUNICATIONS, 517.333.1606

## **Passing House Bill 5857 will save lives, reduce opioid pilfering in Macomb County**

*Medical Examiner's 2017 annual report shows six percent increase in drug overdose deaths in Macomb County*

**SHELBY TOWNSHIP, Mich.** — State Rep. **Peter Lucido** (R – Shelby Township) today called for swift action to address the opioid epidemic's growing impact in Macomb County in response to the recently released 2017 Medical Examiner annual report that revealed drug-related deaths are still on the rise. Lucido urged his colleagues in the Michigan Legislature to join him in supporting **House Bill 5857**, legislation that will save lives and reduce pilfering and require opioids be dispensed in locking prescription vials.

"The findings of the Medical Examiner's 2017 annual report are a reminder of the urgent need to protect Macomb County residents from this epidemic," said Lucido. "We need swift action from my colleagues in Lansing to pass HB 5857 and modernize the outdated child resistant vials that make pilfering so easy. By reducing pilfering, we will protect thousands of teens in Macomb County and across the state from starting the cycle of abuse."

Pilfering, which is sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading cause of youth opioid abuse. Each year 960,000 children, nationwide, between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse and many children start in middle school. Even worse, research shows that 80 percent of heroin addicts start out using prescription opioids.

The child-resistant prescription vials currently in use were originally created in 1970 with a goal of preventing access by children age 5 and younger. However, today's universe of medications is stronger and more addictive. Some have been found to be 80 times stronger than morphine.

Nationally recognized public health organizations like the FDA and Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins have been calling for improved packaging of these highly addictive drugs for several years.

"This common sense legislation, which will require locking prescription vials, is a big step toward addressing pilfering's role in this epidemic that has ravaged communities across the state," Lucido said. "Drug abuse has already claimed the lives of far too many Michiganders and shows no signs of slowing down. We must act now and pass HB 5857 so we can prevent more Michiganders from initiating abuse and save lives."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Date

Contact: Ryan Bridges, Byrum & Fisk Communications, (517) 333-1606

## **Health Alert Network update cites dramatic increase in synthetic opioid overdose deaths since 2015**

*CDC report shows urgent need for swift action to address addiction, prevent teens from starting a cycle of abuse*

**MONROE, Mich.** –The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a Health Alert Network (HAN) update announcing dramatic increases in the number of opioid overdoses related to illicitly manufactured synthetic opioids including fentanyl, carfentanil and others. This is the second update to the original health advisory, HAN 384, which was released in October 2015.

“The Health Action Network update should put everyone on notice that the opioid epidemic is real and getting worse every day,” said Rep. **Joe Bellino** (R-Monroe). “We must take action to prevent more Michiganders from getting addicted in the first place. Passing **House Bill 5857**, the Stemming Teen Opioid Pilfering- MI bill is a step in the right direction because it will reduce opioid pilfering, and protect teens from starting a cycle of abuse.”

The report noted that increased supply and access to fentanyl and other synthetic opioids has resulted in a rise in overdose deaths across the nation. It also updated information to protect law enforcement and medical professionals from fentanyl exposure. The report also offered the following recommendations:

- Improve detection of fentanyl outbreaks to facilitate effective response
- Expand use of naloxone and opioid use disorder treatment

Given how rapidly this epidemic is evolving and growing in impact, finding a solution will require input from public health departments, medical examiners and coroners, law enforcement, laboratories, health care providers, harm reduction organizations and legislators.

In April, Rep. Bellino introduced HB 5857, which will require opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials. Experts believe the measure will prevent 150,000 Michigan children and teens from starting a cycle of abuse over a 10-year-period.

Pilfering, which is sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading cause of youth opioid abuse. Each year 960,000 children, nationwide, between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse and many children start in middle school. Even worse, research shows that 80 percent of heroin addicts start out using prescription opioids.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant vials currently being used have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When created in 1970, the goal was to prevent children age 5 and younger from accessing the family supply of aspirin. However, today’s universe of medications is stronger and more addictive and some have been found to be 80 times stronger than morphine.

Nationally recognized Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have been calling for improved packaging of these highly addictive drugs for several years.

“HB 5857 will make pilfering tougher by requiring opioids be dispensed in inexpensive locking prescription vials that will ensure these addictive prescription drugs are accessible only by those who they are prescribed to,” said Bellino. “Opioid abuse has claimed the lives of far too many Michiganders and is showing no signs of slowing down. We must act now to stop this epidemic from impacting more Michigan families.”

HB 5857 has received support from **Families Against Narcotics**, a Michigan based nonprofit dedicated to educating communities about substance abuse, the **Michigan Fraternal Order of Police** and the **Michigan Association for Local Public Health**.

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While I agree with Lt. Gov. Calley that “equipping people with naloxone is a great step” toward preparing for potential overdoses, a crucial next step in addressing Michigan’s opioid epidemic is preventing the cycle of abuse in the first place.

Pilfering, which is stealing a small number of pills, hoping it will go unnoticed, is a huge problem and has been identified as the leading source of youth opioid abuse. Each year, 960,000 children across the nation initiate prescription drug abuse with many starting in middle school.

In April, I introduced House Bill 5857, which will require opioids and other highly addictive drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials. Experts believe that over a 10-year-period, the measure will prevent 150,000 Michigan youth from starting the cycle of abuse.

Now is the time to protect Michigan youth from this epidemic’s impact. We must pass HB 5857 without delay.

Submitted by Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Date  
Contact: Ryan Bridges, 517-333-1606

## **Chang, Kosowski announce support for new legislation to reduce teen opioid pilfering**

### *HB 5857 would protect Michigan families from growing opioid epidemic*

**DETROIT**— State Representatives **Stephanie Chang** (D-Detroit) and **Robert Kosowski** (D-Westland) today announced their support for new legislation aimed at reducing opioid pilfering and abuse in communities across Michigan.

“Communities across Michigan have been devastated by opioid abuse and it’s important that we take the necessary action to address the pilfering epidemic,” said Chang. “Making it harder for unintended users to access these dangerous medications is the first step toward reducing the number of families in my district and across Michigan harmed by this public health crisis.”

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. **Joe Bellino** (R-Monroe), would require that opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials, a measure that is anticipated to prevent 150,000 young people from initiating drug abuse over a 10-year-period.

Pilfering is the act of stealing a few pills, hoping that it will go undetected. Studies show, each year nearly 600,000 children from across the country between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering. Pilfering is the leading source of youth opioid abuse.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant prescription vials currently in use have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from gaining access to aspirin. Today, the medicines being prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

“Today’s prescription drugs are far stronger than anything that was on the market when the child-resistant vials we use today were designed in 1970,” said Kosowski. “In the last few years, there have been numerous calls from nationally recognized public health officials to modernize and improve the way we dispense these highly addictive medications. We have an opportunity to stand up and protect Michigan families from the opioid crisis that continues to claim lives every day.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: XXXday, April XX, 2018

Contact: Ryan Bridges, 313-347-6575

## **Rep. Beau LaFave announces legislation to reduce opioid pilfering and abuse in the UP**

*HB XXX to protect Michigan families from growing opioid epidemic*

**IRON MOUNTAIN, MI.** – State Rep. **Beau LaFave** (R- Iron Mountain) announced today that he is supporting new legislation aimed at reducing opioid pilfering in communities across the Upper Peninsula and Michigan as a whole. The legislation is sponsored by Rep. **Joe Bellino** (R – Monroe).

“Opioid abuse has ravaged communities across the Upper Peninsula and it’s time we take a stand and protect families from the dangers of pilfering,” said Rep. Beau LaFave. “Modernizing an antiquated law by requiring opioids and other Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in locking prescription vials will reduce pilfering and keep children from ever starting on a path toward opioid addiction.”

“I want to thank Rep. LaFave for co-sponsoring this critical legislation that will protect children and teens across the state from opioid abuse,” said State Rep. Joe Bellino. The fact that our districts are in different corners of the state shows opioid abuse has no geographical boundaries. This is not just a Monroe problem or a UP problem. It’s a problem affecting our entire state and nation.”

Pilfering, the act of sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading source for youth opioid abuse. Studies show, each year nearly 600,000 children from across the country between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering.

The ineffective and outdated child resistant prescription vials currently in use have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from gaining access to aspirin. Today, the medicines being prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

“Prescription drugs are a lot stronger and more addictive than they were when child resistant vials were designed in 1970,” LaFave said. “Some of the country’s leading public health organizations have called for improved packaging of opioids and other addictive medications on the federal level for several years. It’s time my colleagues and I answer the call and protect Michigan families by passing the STOP-MI Bill.”

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Date  
Contact: Ryan Bridges, Byrum & Fisk Communications, (517) 333-1606

## **Purdue Pharma joins growing chorus calling for measures to reduce opioid pilfering**

*Unprecedented full-page ad shines spotlight on growing  
opioid abuse crisis*

**MONROE, Mich.** – A jarring full-page ad in *The Wall Street Journal* by opioid manufacturer Purdue Pharma calls on drug manufacturers, policymakers, pharmacists, law enforcement and other stakeholders to take action to protect families from opioid addiction. Now is the time to adopt legislation that reduces the impact of the opioid crisis.

“Purdue’s recent ad in *The Wall Street Journal* is a strong signal that it’s time for lawmakers to step up and pass legislation that reduces pilfering and protects families from this crisis,” said Rep. **Joe Bellino** (R-Monroe). “Opioid abuse has ravaged communities across our state and we must act now to prevent additional families from being impacted by this crisis. That is why I introduced House Bill 5857, which will reduce pilfering and protect Michigan children and teens from even starting the cycle of abuse.”

Pilfering, which is sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading cause of youth opioid abuse. Each year, 960,000 children nationwide between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse, and many children start in middle school. Even worse, research shows that 80 percent of heroin addicts start out using prescription opioids.

Introduced by Rep. Bellino in April, HB 5857 will require opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in **Locking Prescription Vials**. By reducing pilfering, experts believe over a 10-year period, HB 5857 will prevent 150,000 Michigan children and teens from starting the cycle of abuse.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant vials currently being used have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When created in 1970, the goal was to prevent children age 5 and younger from accessing the family supply of aspirin. However, today’s universe of medications is stronger and more addictive, and some have been found to be 80 times stronger than morphine.

“House Bill 5857 will modernize the outdated child-resistant vials used to dispense opioids and make it tougher for children and teens to get their hands on these highly addictive drugs,” Bellino said. “Far too many Michiganders have lost their lives to opioid abuse and this epidemic shows no signs of slowing down. I’m calling on my colleagues in the Legislature to protect Michigan families by passing HB 5857 without delay.”

HB 5857 has received support from **Families Against Narcotics**, a Michigan-based nonprofit dedicated to educating communities about substance abuse, the **Michigan Fraternal Order of Police** and the **Michigan Association for Local Public Health**.

###

# Response: Fighting opioid abuse takes bipartisan effort

The *Oakland Press* recently ran a guest column from my colleague, Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) where he stated that finding a solution to opioid abuse will take a bipartisan effort and that “preventing opioid addiction from developing” is one of the most effective ways to combat this epidemic.

Thankfully, Rep. Moss understands the opioid epidemic is far too important to let politics get in the way of progress. It is time for my colleagues in Lansing, including Rep. Moss, to take action to protect Michigan families from the growing opioid epidemic. That action begins with preventing people from getting addicted to opioids in the first place.

Pilfering, which is the act of stealing a few pills hoping it will go unnoticed, is the most common way teens start the cycle of opioid addiction.

In April, I introduced House Bill 5857 - the Stemming Teen Opioid Pilfering MI or STOP-MI bill - which will update Michigan’s antiquated prescription vial standards and require opioids and other Schedule II drugs be dispensed in locking prescription vials.

The outdated and ineffective child-resistant prescription vials we currently use were originally created in 1970, with a goal of preventing children age 5 and under from accessing the family supply of aspirin.

The landscape of prescription drugs and pain management has completely changed in the last 50 years and some of today’s opioids and Schedule II drugs are 80 times stronger than morphine.

My bill has received support from Families Against Narcotics, a Michigan based non-profit dedicated to educating communities about substance abuse, the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police and the Michigan Association of Local Public Health.

I ask Rep. Moss reach out to me in order to join the coalition that supports HB 5857, a bipartisan bill that will protect more Michigan families from the impacts of this crisis.



## **UPmatters.com | LaFave on legislation to reduce opioid pilfering and abuse in the U.P.**

State Rep. Beau LaFave (R-Iron Mountain) announced today that he is supporting new legislation aimed at reducing opioid pilfering in communities across the Upper Peninsula and Michigan as a whole. The legislation is sponsored by Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe).

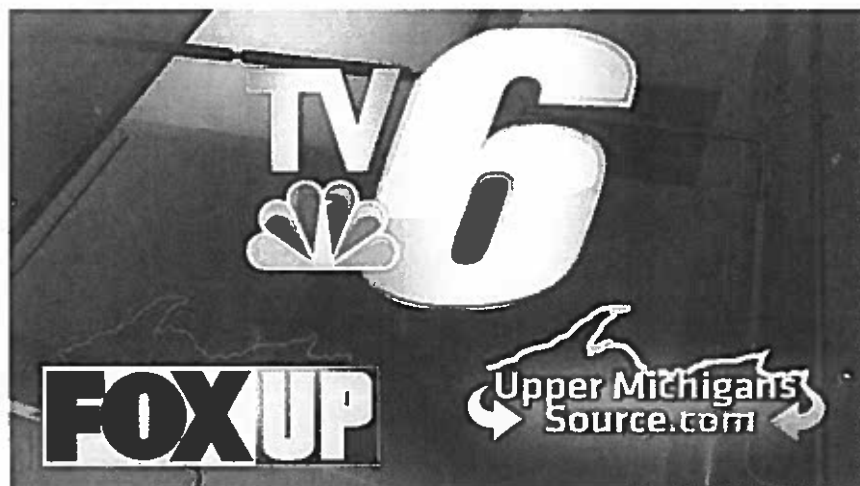
"Opioid abuse has ravaged communities across the Upper Peninsula and it's time we take a stand and protect families from the dangers of pilfering," said LaFave. "Modernizing an antiquated law by requiring opioids and other Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in locking prescription vials will reduce pilfering and keep children from ever starting on a path toward opioid addiction."

"I want to thank Rep. LaFave for co-sponsoring this critical legislation that will protect children and teens across the state from opioid abuse," said Bellino. "The fact that our districts are in different corners of the state shows opioid abuse has no geographical boundaries. This is not just a Monroe problem or a UP problem. It's a problem affecting our entire state and nation."

Pilfering, the act of sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading source for youth opioid abuse. Studies show each year nearly 600,000 children from across the country between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering.

The ineffective and outdated child resistant prescription vials currently in use have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from gaining access to aspirin. Today, the medicines being prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

"Prescription drugs are a lot stronger and more addictive than they were when child resistant vials were designed in 1970," LaFave said. "Some of the country's leading public health organizations have called for improved packaging of opioids and other addictive medications on the federal level for several years. It's time my colleagues and I answer the call and protect Michigan families by passing the STOP-MI Bill."



## **FOX TV 6 | Bipartisan bill would mandate lockable vials for opioids –**

To deter opioid abuse, Michigan lawmakers say it's time to rethink the child-resistant prescription vial.

In a Tuesday press conference, Republican and Democratic state representatives unveiled a bill requiring opioids and other Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in lockable vials. Patients would only be able to open the caps through a combination code or biometric recognition system.

The legislation mainly targets teenagers, who most commonly abuse opioids through "pilfering," or sneaking pills from a friend or relative's bottle. Under the bill, drug manufacturers would be responsible for reimbursing pharmacies for the costs of the lockable vials.

Other schedule II drugs in the state include medical marijuana, ADHD medication and morphine.

Last year, Michigan was ranked 10th for its number of opioid prescriptions per capita.

To read Rep. Beau LaFave's comments on this legislation, visit the Related Documents section of this article.

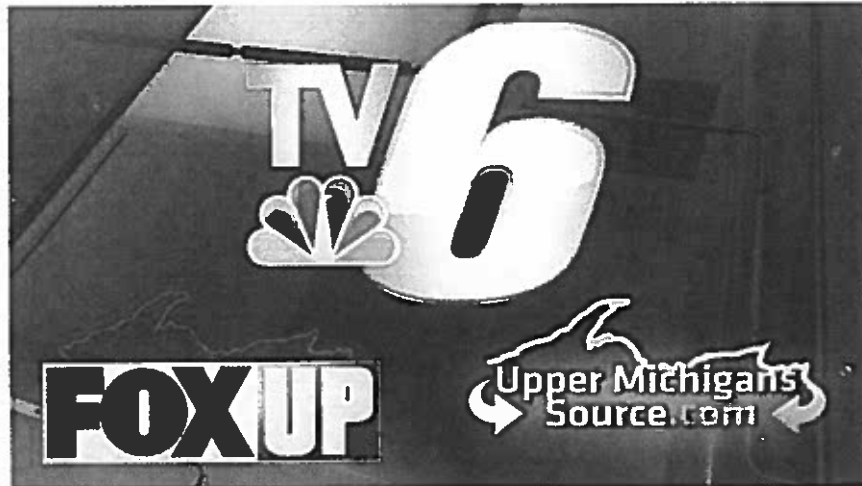


## **WILX 10 | State lawmaker to introduce new plan aimed at curbing Michigan's opioid epidemic**

State Representative Joe Bellino, R-Monroe, will announce the new Stemming Teenage Opioid Pilfering (STOP - MI) bill Tuesday after noon at the State Capitol in Lansing.

The legislation would require certain prescriptions be dispensed and stored in low-cost locking prescription vials.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, State Representative Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit, and other sponsors of the bill will be in attendance at the bill announcement Tuesday.



## **FOX TV 6 | New legislation introduced to change how prescription bottles are made and prevent opioid abuse**

Last week Representative Beau Lafave and Representative Joe Bellino introduced a new legislation. The bill would require drug companies put a combination lock on top of prescription bottles.

The goal is that only the person who was prescribed the pills would know the combination. This would prevent children or others from taking the medicine.

"One of the problems that we have is that our kids who get addicted to drugs, generally speaking, don't start by buying heroin on the street corners," Representative Lafave said. "They start by getting Vicodin or other opioids in their parents' medicine cabinet."

Disabled or elderly individuals unable to use the combination tops would have the option of opting out of the new bottles.

# The Detroit News

## **Detroit News| Bipartisan bill would mandate lockable opioid vials**

To deter opioid abuse, Michigan lawmakers say it's time to rethink the child-resistant prescription vial.

In a Tuesday press conference, Republican and Democratic state representatives unveiled a bill requiring opioids and other Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in lockable vials. Patients would only be able to open the caps through a combination code or biometric recognition system.

The legislation mainly targets teenagers, who most commonly abuse opioids through "pilfering," or sneaking pills from a friend or relative's bottle. Under the bill, drug manufacturers would be responsible for reimbursing pharmacies for the costs of the lockable vials.

Other schedule II drugs in the state include medical marijuana, ADHD medication and morphine.

Last year, Michigan was ranked 10th for its number of opioid prescriptions per capita.





## **The Hill | Michigan lawmakers introduce bill to require locks on opioid prescription bottles**

Michigan lawmakers on Tuesday introduced a bill that would require opioid prescriptions to come in bottles with locks.

The bill, backed by both Republicans and Democrats, is aimed at reducing opioid abuse among teenagers, who often access opioid pills from a friend or relative's bottle, according to The Detroit Free Press.

Lockable pill bottles have been suggested in other states as a means of combatting the opioid crisis. They most often operate with a four-digit combination code.

State Rep. Joe Bellino (R) said the legislation could prevent more than 150,000 teens from starting opioid abuse and save the state more than \$1 billion, according to Michigan's ABC13.

The legislation would also apply to Schedule II drugs, such as medical marijuana and medication for ADHD.

President Trump on Tuesday extended the administration's opioid public health emergency for another 90 days, the second time he has done so since announcing it in October.

Addiction advocates have been critical of the administration's handling of the crisis, saying the White House is not doing enough to combat it.

# Detroit Free Press

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## **Detroit Free Press | Bill would require locks on opioid prescription bottles**

To deter opioid abuse, Michigan lawmakers say it's time to rethink the child-resistant prescription vial.

In a Tuesday press conference, Republican and Democratic state representatives unveiled a bill requiring opioids and other Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in lockable vials. Patients would only be able to open the caps through a combination code or biometric recognition system.

The legislation mainly targets teenagers, who most commonly abuse opioids through "pilfering," or sneaking pills from a friend or relative's bottle. Under the bill, drug manufacturers would be responsible for reimbursing pharmacies for the costs of the lockable vials.

Other schedule II drugs in the state include medical marijuana, ADHD medication and morphine.

Last year, Michigan was ranked 10th for its number of opioid prescriptions per capita.

## THE MONROE NEWS

### **Monroe Evening News| Bellino bill hopes to put a cap on teenage opioid pilfering**

Legislation aimed at protecting Michigan families from the growing opioid epidemic was introduced by state Rep. Joseph Bellino, R-Monroe, at a press conference at St. Mary Catholic Central High School Monday.

The Stemming Teenage Opioid Pilfering (STOP) bill targets youth pilfering — the act of sneaking a small number of pills from prescription vials. Bellino said pilfering, also known as “skimming,” is the No. 1 source for youth opioid abuse.

The bill would require opioids and other Schedule II drugs, like Adderall, to be dispensed in locking prescription vials.

According to Bellino, the legislation was introduced Thursday and has bipartisan support.

“As someone who has struggled with addiction, I’ve seen how it breaks up families,” Bellino said, referring to his recovery from alcohol addiction. “This legislation will make access (to prescription drugs) more difficult.”

Bellino said in a press release that nearly 600,000 children between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering. In Michigan alone, 4.7 percent of seventh-graders, 5.1 percent of ninth-graders and 6.6 percent of 11th-graders have admitted to taking painkillers that were not prescribed to them, according to the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Survey.

The STOP bill proposes modernizing the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act, a law created in 1970 to prevent children younger than 5 from gaining access to aspirin. Bellino said the law is ineffective, inadequate and out of date, as some prescription drugs are now nearly 80 times stronger than morphine, and children as young as 6 can outsmart the current vials.

Users find the easiest link to feed addiction. often through pilfering, he said. By requiring prescription drug companies to use locking vials, he said access to such powerful prescription drugs would become much more difficult.

Bellino presented six prototypes of such vials during the press conference, each of which require a four-digit code to open the lid. He said there are larger vials that would work for liquid medications as well.

The locking vials would cost about 80 cents each to produce — about 50 cents more than the state's current vials. But Bellino said he expects that \$1 billion in health care costs and \$715 million in lost productivity and criminal justice costs would be returned to the state's economy over a 10-year period.

"As a former addict, this legislation hits home for me," said Chris Clark, Monroe High School's football and baseball coach, who spoke at the press conference in support of Bellino. "This is an important first step to solving the opioid problem."

Clark, who is now more than nine years sober, suffered from an opioid addiction which he said began with pilfering as an adult.

Along with Clark, Dede Meiring, who recently lost her son to drug addiction, spoke at the press conference and said she is proud to stand with Bellino in support of this bill.

State Sen. Dale Zorn, R-Ida; Monroe police Chief Charles McCormick; Marc Moore of Monroe Area Narcotics Team Investigation Services, and members of SMCC's Student Anti-Narcotics Group also attended.

The bill has not been assigned to a House Committee. Bellino said he hopes it will pass in the House and Senate by the end of the year.



## **WDIV 4 | Bipartisan Michigan bill would mandate lockable vials for opioids**

To deter opioid abuse, Michigan lawmakers say it's time to rethink the child-resistant prescription vial.

In a Tuesday press conference, Republican and Democratic state representatives unveiled a bill requiring opioids and other Schedule II drugs to be dispensed in lockable vials. Patients would only be able to open the caps through a combination code or biometric recognition system.

The legislation mainly targets teenagers, who most commonly abuse opioids through "pilfering," or sneaking pills from a friend or relative's bottle. Under the bill, drug manufacturers would be responsible for reimbursing pharmacies for the costs of the lockable vials.

Other schedule II drugs in the state include medical marijuana, ADHD medication and morphine.

Last year, Michigan was ranked 10th for its number of opioid prescriptions per capita.



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## **Michigan Public Radio | Bill would require lockable vials for prescription opioids**

Prescription opioids and other addictive medications would have to be dispensed in lockable vials under legislation that was introduced yesterday in the Michigan House.

The goal of the bill is to deter young people from sneaking small numbers of pills from bottles they find in their homes or the homes of friends.

According to State Rep. Joseph Bellino, (R-Monroe) the bill's sponsor, pilfering is a leading source of youth opioid abuse and addiction.

"As an addict, as a person who has snuck marijuana, who has snuck cigarettes, who has snuck alcohol, I know that I went to the easiest, softest way to get my drug," said Bellino, "and the easiest, softest way for kids today is in a medicine cabinet."

"I don't want a 12 year-old to go into grandma's medicine cabinet and take two oxycontin and then figure out, 'Oh what a great feeling I had,'" Bellino said.

Under the bill, the locked bottle tops could be opened only with a combination code or biometric recognition system.

The Michigan Pharmacists Association opposes the legislation.

Larry Wagenknecht, the group's CEO, says mandating a lockable cap would add to the cost of pain medication, and would be ineffective since the bottle could be stolen or smashed, and the special cap would draw attention to the opioid contents.



## **ABC 12 | State lawmakers introduce bill to eliminate opioid pilfering**

Several state lawmakers have introduced legislation to eliminate opioid pilfering.

Pilfering is the act of sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected.

The bill would require all schedule II substances to be dispensed in lockable vials. Patients would only be able to open the bottle through a combination code or bio-metric recognition system.

The legislation mainly goes after teenagers.

Studies show each year, nearly 600,000 children from across the U.S. between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering.

It is estimated that eliminating pilfering altogether would prevent more than 150,000 Michigan teens from getting hooked on the addictive medications.

Eliminating opioid pilfering boils down to saving more than \$1 billion in health care costs.

It also potentially means a return of more than \$700 million in lost productivity and criminal justice costs to the state's economy over a 10 year period.

"Child resistant prescription vials are simply inadequate and presents an imminent public health threat. In tests, children as young as age 6 have been able to outsmart and elude the child resistant tops and gain access to what's inside," said Rep. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit).

"If we really want to see a change, we need to make it more difficult for teenagers and children to access these highly addictive drugs," said Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe).


Under the bill, drug manufacturers would be required to reimburse pharmacies for those costs.

Michigan, last year was ranked 10th for the number of opioid prescriptions written per capita.



## **MIRS | Locking Pill Vials Pitched To Stop Teen Pill Pilfering**

Hoping to stop teens from pilfering prescription drugs from parents' medicine cabinets, Rep. Joseph **BELLINO** (R-Monroe) has introduced legislation requiring that opioids and other Schedule 2 drugs be sold in locking prescription vials, which look like pill bottles with bicycle locks on top of them.

Bellino was joined by Rep. Stephanie **CHANG** (D-Detroit) and Rep. Beau **LAFAYE** (R-Iron Mountain), as well as Lansing Mayor Andy **SCHOR** today during a press conference to announce the introduction of  **HB 5857**.

Chang explained the currently used child-resistant pill vials were mandated back in 1970.

"Back then, the goal was to prevent children under the age of 5 from accessing aspirin. I hope we can all agree that the landscape of prescription drugs has changed dramatically since 1970. Today's opioids and schedule 2 drugs are stronger and more addictive than ever. Some have even been found to be 80 times stronger than morphine. Child resistant prescription vials are simply inadequate and present a public health threat," she said.

"It is estimated that eliminating pilfering or skimming will prevent 150,000 teens from initiating abuse," Bellino said. "Initiating, that doesn't mean they all become addicts, but once you take these a few times and you start liking it, it is a real tough cycle to break."

Schor said "we see this every day" in Lansing. Since he's become mayor at the start of the year, there have been 71 overdoses and 11 fatalities in the city.

"That's not to say Lansing is the worst. This is a problem everywhere," he said.

LaFave said much of the discussion about the ongoing opioid epidemic is about how to treat those who are already addicted.



"Very few people are talking about what we can do to prevent opioid abuse in the first place. Research shows that teenage prescription drug use often starts in the family medicine cabinet, not on the street. It is imperative that we prevent young people from taking the first step down a road that leads to addiction or even death," LaFave said.

Six states already require the use of locking vials, which cost less than \$1 per bottle, Bellino said.

🐾 HB 5857 has an exemption for seniors who are unable to open the bottles, due to arthritis or other restrict



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## **Gongwer | Bellino Bill Seeks To Reduce Opioid 'Pilfering'**

A bipartisan bill introduced in the House on Tuesday seeks to reduce instances of sneaking small numbers of prescription pills in hopes it will go undetected by requiring opioids to be stored in locking vials.

**HB 5857** was sent to the House Health Policy Committee. **Rep. Joe Bellino** (R-Monroe) said the bill will modernize current law and require opioids and other schedule two drugs to be dispensed in locking prescription vials.

In a statement, it said nearly 600,000 children from across the country between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering. The statement estimated that eliminating pilfering would prevent more than 150,000 Michigan teens from initiating abuse, save more than \$1 billion in health care costs and return more than \$715 million in lost productivity and criminal justice costs to the state's economy over a 10-year period.

"The landscape of prescription drugs and pain management has changed tremendously since the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was developed in 1970," **Rep. Stephanie Chang** (-Detroit) said. "I stand with Rep. Bellino because it is critical we act now to make it tougher for children to get their hands on these highly addictive pills and reduce pilfering. STOP-MI is the first step in making that happen."



## **CBS 3 Kalamazoo | Bill would require lockable vials for prescription opioids**

A new bill introduced in the Michigan house of representatives Tuesday would require opioids and other addictive medications to be dispensed in lockable vials.

The goal of the bill is to deter young people from sneaking small numbers of pills from bottles they find in their homes or the homes of friends.

"I know the majority of kids that start with opioids as a teenager: 10-, 12-, 13-, 14-year-olds, they steal, they pilfer from someone's medicine cabinet, whether it'd be Uncle Jimmy, Grandma's or my own," State Rep. Joseph Bellino (R-Monroe) said.

According to a Johns Hopkins University study, pilfering is the leading cause of youth opioid abuse, resulting in nearly 600,000 children and teens in the United States becoming hooked on prescription pain pills.

Under the newly introduced bill, opioids and other schedule II drugs would be dispensed in locking prescription vials, only to be opened with combination code or bio-metric recognition system..

Derek Quinn, a pharmacist at Park Street Pharmacy, says the locking mechanism is something his patients asked to have for quite some time.

Quinn said. "Everyone I talk to is concerned about it. Parents are concerned about it, elderly people are concerned about it, patients always want to ask how do I protect my medication?"

The Michigan Pharmacists Association opposes the legislation.

Larry Wagenkenect, president of the Michigan Pharmacists Association, says mandating a lockable bottle could be ineffective since it could be stolen or smashed, and would add to the cost of pain medication.

"Anywhere from \$2 to \$6 per prescription. That's a cost that becomes a significant amount. It's a challenge for pharmacists and patients." said Wagenkenect. "This particular solution that is not going to solve the opioid problem in Michigan,"

The bill's sponsors say the gains will outweigh any costs.

"This is not a high price to pay for the problem we have today," said Bellino.

Kalamazoo resident Alan Sarver is 8-year cancer survivor who says he became addicted to opioids during his treatment.

"Until I finally realized I had a problem, I didn't think I did, but I did," Sarver said.

Sarver believes the bill is a good first step and the bill's sponsors say the lockable caps could prevent more than 150,000 Michigan teens from initiating abuse and save more than \$10 billion in a 10-year period.

"Any deterrent I would think would be a very good thing and I would like to see it passed," Sarver said.



## **9&10 News Traverse City| Michigan lawmakers consider new bill aimed at stopping opioid crisis**

Michigan lawmakers are trying to come up with ways to stop the opioid crisis. They are now targeting child-resistant prescription vials.

New legislation centers around opioids and other schedule two drugs.

It calls for the drugs to be dispensed in a lockable bottle.

Patients would only be able to open the caps through a combination code or biometric recognition system.

The idea is this would limit opioid abusers from stealing pills from friends or relatives.

Drug manufacturers would be responsible for reimbursing pharmacies for the costs of the lockable vials.



## **WWJ| Staying in Touch with Ron Dewey: Opioid addiction problem in Michigan**

Locking down the opioid addiction problem in Michigan. Monroe State House Representative Joe Bellino introducing new legislation to require opioids and related prescription drugs to be dispensed in locking vials...he says access at the medicine cabinet is a major gateway to addiction that can be denied.



## **ABC 10 | State Rep. LaFave supports bill to reduce opioid pilfering and abuse**

Representative Beau LaFave has recently announced his support for new legislation aimed at reducing opioid pilfering in communities across the Upper Peninsula.

Pilfering is the act of sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected.

The legislation would require drug companies to put a combination lock on the top of all prescription pill vials. According to LaFave, this cost is relatively inexpensive for the drug companies, and the lock will cost around one dollar per vial.

"Since the drug companies that caused this problem, it's going to be the drug companies that help us fix it," said LaFave in an interview with ABC 10. "What the studies have found is that our young kids that start getting to use drugs generally don't start by buying heroin in the streets, they start in the medicine cabinet vicodin and other prescription opioids."

LaFave said that if this legislation prevents even one person from abusing prescription drugs, then it's worth the extra cost to the drug companies.

The legislation, HB 5857, is sponsored by Representative Joe Bellino (R-Monroe). The bill was just introduced, and LaFave hopes it will move quickly through the legislature.



## **Macomb Daily | FAN supports bill mandating prescription drug vial locks**

Fraser-based Families Against Narcotics is supporting a proposed state law that requires prescription opioids to be provided in locking containers. FAN, which has chapters throughout Michigan, announced Wednesday in a news release it backs House Bill 5857 that they believe will help pilfering of pills by those who are not supposed to use them. FAN urges state lawmakers to pass the legislation.

"This legislation will help to reduce the number of Michigan children and teens that start abusing prescription pills by making it harder for them to pilfer from the family medicine cabinet," said Judge Linda Davis, executive president of FAN. "We need all hands on deck to make sure HB 5857 becomes law because it will save lives."





## **WCMU Public Radio| Bill would better lock pill bottles to reduce prescription drug abuse**

Experts say every year nearly 600-thousand children begin abusing prescription drugs by pilfering a family member's prescription.

The caps currently used to keep children out of pill bottles are nearly 50 years old, and prescription drugs are 80 times stronger now than they were in 1970.

Republican Representative Joe Bellino is the bill's sponsor.

"If somebody goes into a room to use the restroom they will have a tough time getting any pill out of it, a tough time pilfering out of it, unlike today where people can go into a room and they could pilfer a couple pills off the top and no one knows they're missing. This is how a lot of kids start their drug abuse."

Bellino said the updated pill bottles would involve a four digit code. The cap would have four rotating panels of numbers, and all four numbers need to be lined up to open the bottle.

He said the bill would have drug manufacturers pay for the upgraded vials, which cost less than a dollar more than the current ones.

House bill 5857 is currently awaiting committee.

## **Legalnews.com | FAN calls on Michigan Legislature to support locking prescription vial legislation**

The statewide community support and advocacy group, Families Against Narcotics (FAN), announced its support for HB 5857 on Monday and urged legislators across the state to pass this important legislation without delay.

"This legislation will help reduce the number of Michigan children and teens that start abusing prescription pills by making it harder for them to pilfer from the family medicine cabinet," said Judge Linda Davis, Executive President of FAN. "I am proud to stand in full support of this bill and sincerely hope that legislators across the state will join together to approve it without delay. We need all hands on deck to make sure HB 5857 becomes law because it will save lives.

Pilfering is the act of stealing someone else's prescription medication for recreational use with the hope that it will go undetected. Pilfering has been identified as the leading source of youth opioid abuse, and studies show each year nearly 600,000 children from across the country initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering.

Sponsored by Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe), the legislation would require that opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials. Experts believe the measure would prevent 150,000 young people from initiating drug abuse over a ten-year period.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant prescription vials currently in use have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted and child-resistant vials were designed in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from gaining access to aspirin. Today, the medicines being prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

"With chapters across the state, Families Against Narcotics is on the front lines, helping people directly impacted by this epidemic," said Davis. "By modernizing the outdated packaging used to dispense and store opioids, this bill will have a tremendous positive impact, saving lives in communities statewide and saving millions in health care costs."



## **UP Matters| Michigan Fraternal Order of Police supports new legislation**

The Michigan Fraternal Order of Police, the state chapter of the nation's largest organization for police officers, today announced its support for House Bill 5857. The legislation will modify outdated legislation and require opioids be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials.

"The role of law enforcement is to serve and protect our communities from harm, and opioid abuse is certainly a serious issue that has harmed families and communities across the state," said Joe Adams, President of the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police. "By modernizing the outdated prescription vials used to dispense opioids we will make it tougher for children and teens to pilfer from the family medicine cabinet."

Pilfering is the act of stealing someone else's prescription medication for recreational use hoping it will go undetected. Pilfering has been identified as the leading source of youth opioid abuse. Studies show that nearly 600,000 children and teens from across the country initiate opioid abuse by pilfering every year.

Sponsored by Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe), the legislation would require opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials. Experts believe the measure would prevent 150,000 Michigan children and teens from starting a cycle of opioid abuse over a 10-year-period.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant prescription vials currently being used have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act was enacted and child-resistant vials were designed in 1970, the goal was to prevent children under age 5 from accessing the family supply of aspirin. Today, the medications prescribed for pain management are nearly 80 times stronger than morphine.

"Our goal is to keep drugs out of the hands of Michigan children and teens," said Dave Hiller, Executive Director of the Fraternal Order of Police. "We support HB 5857 because it will save lives by making it tougher for youth to pilfer from unsuspecting family members. We urge other law enforcement organizations to get behind this legislation and encourage lawmakers in Lansing to keep opioids out of the hands of Michigan children and teens."

# OAKLAND PRESS

## **Oakland Press| Letters to the Editor: Fighting opioid abuse takes bipartisan effort**

The Oakland Press recently ran a guest column from my colleague, Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) where he stated that finding a solution to opioid abuse will take a bipartisan effort and that “preventing opioid addiction from developing” is one of the most effective ways to combat this epidemic.

Thankfully, Rep. Moss understands the opioid epidemic is far too important to let politics get in the way of progress. It is time for my colleagues in Lansing, including Rep. Moss, to take action to protect Michigan families from the growing opioid epidemic. That action begins with preventing people from getting addicted to opioids in the first place.

Pilfering, which is the act of stealing a few pills hoping it will go unnoticed, is the most common way teens start the cycle of opioid addiction.

# The Detroit News

## **Detroit News| Opinion: Stemming teenage opioid pilfering bill will help curb drug abuse**

As the parent of an addict in recovery, I know first-hand how devastating addiction can be to a family. I will never forget the day my daughter broke the news to me that she had an opioid addiction and needed my help beating it.

I thought I knew everything about my daughter. She was a competitive cheerleader and an A student, but on that day in 2007, I learned she was also addicted to heroin.

After learning of my daughter's battle with addiction, I had tons of questions like, "How did my daughter end up addicted to heroin?" and "Who is selling heroin to high school students?"

It turns out, drug abuse was becoming a big issue in my Fraser neighborhood. In a 12-month period, there were 30 overdoses and nine drug-related deaths in the extended neighborhoods of Fraser High, where my daughter was a student.

People were dying and something needed to be done about it. This led me and a few other parents with children struggling with addiction to start what is now known as Families Against Narcotics (FAN).

FAN is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to educating communities about narcotic substance abuse and supporting those affected by addiction. We now have 20 chapters across Michigan and one in North Carolina. I serve as FAN's president.

It's no secret that today's teenagers are getting high on prescription pills. What's not widely known is the opioid epidemic doesn't start on street corners, but in the family medicine cabinet.

Pilfering, which is sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading source of youth opioid abuse. Each year, 960,000 children nationwide between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse and many children begin using in middle school. Even worse, research shows that 80 percent of heroin addicts start out using prescription opioids.

In April, State Rep. Joe Bellino, R-Monroe, introduced House Bill 5857 – the Stemming Teenage Opioid Pilfering Mi or STOP-MI bill. The bill would update Michigan's antiquated prescription vial standards and require opioids and other Schedule II drugs be dispensed and stored in

locking prescription vials (LPV). These vials will significantly reduce pilfering, save lives and cut millions of dollars in excess health care costs.

The child-resistant prescription vials we currently use are outdated and entirely ineffective when it comes to pilfering. They were originally created in 1970 with a goal of preventing children 5 and younger from getting their hands on aspirin. However, today's universe of medications is stronger and more addictive. Some have been found to be 80 times stronger than morphine.

Nationally recognized public health organizations like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health have been calling for improved packaging of these highly addictive drugs for several years. These low-cost, secure LPVs will prevent pilfering and ensure addictive prescription drugs are accessible only to those who need them.

It is estimated that eliminating pilfering would prevent more than 150,000 Michigan teens from initiating abuse, save more than \$1 billion in health care costs and return \$715 million in lost productivity and criminal justice costs to the state's economy.

By modernizing the outdated packaging used to dispense and store opioids, this bill will have a tremendous positive impact, saving lives in communities statewide and saving millions of dollars in health care costs.

I am proud to stand in full support of this bill and sincerely hope that legislators across the state will join together to approve it without delay.

We need all hands on deck to make sure HB 5857 becomes law because it will save lives.

## **The Downriver News Herald | CDC issues public health alert regarding 'dramatic rise' in deaths involving synthetic opioids**

The Health Alert Network (HAN) is an initiative undertaken by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to inform the public about urgent health issues in a timely manner. On July 11, HAN released an update and a set of recommendations regarding the sharp rise in fatalities involving fentanyl and so-called fentanyl analogs.

According to the report, the increase in the supply of these synthetic opioids has coincided with a proportionate increase in deaths. Between 2015 and 2016, the rate of synthetic opioid overdose deaths in the U.S. doubled. Preliminary numbers from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) suggest the number of overdose deaths swelled another 55 percent by November 2017.

A statewide report in March outlined the costs of the opioid crisis for the Downriver community from 2013 to 2015. Of the 10 cities with the highest rates of drug-related overdose deaths in Michigan, six were located Downriver: Lincoln Park, Ecorse, Wyandotte, Woodhaven, Flat Rock and Southgate.

Opioids generally fit into two categories: natural and synthetic. Natural opioids, sometimes referred to as opiates, include opium, morphine and codeine—all of which derive from the opium poppy plant. Synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, are synthesized in laboratories.

In the past five years, the popularity of lab-made opioids like carfentanil, which was first synthesized in 1974 and introduced in the U.S. in 1985, has skyrocketed. Synthetic opioids now account for more overdose deaths in a 12-month period than did both types of opioids in 2013.

As of 2016, approximately one in four U.S. counties had enough opioid prescriptions dispensed for every person to have one. For that year, Wayne County had 89.1 prescriptions per 100 persons.

"The Health Alert Network update should put everyone on notice that the opioid epidemic is real and getting worse every day," said Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe). "We must take action to prevent more Michiganders from getting addicted in the first place."

Bellino introduced House Bill 5857 in April, which would require pharmacists to dispense Schedule II drugs in lockable vials. The bill has received support from Families Against Narcotics,

a Michigan-based nonprofit dedicated to educating communities about substance abuse, the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police and the Michigan Association for Local Public Health.

In a recent Detroit News op-ed, Bellino wrote that “595,200 children between the ages of 12 and 17 nationwide pilfer from the family medicine cabinet.” The locks are meant to deter that practice, and would prevent over 150,000 Michigan teens from initiating abuse according to one study.

Judge Gregory Clifton, who sits on the executive board of the Downriver chapter of FAN, said the practical value of the bill is obvious.

“This bill is another positive step toward addressing the issue of having too many opioids out there,” he explained. “That’s important because it makes it more difficult for younger children and other individuals who are not the prescription holders to access it.”

Downriver FAN meets on the third Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Turning Point Clubhouse. The clubhouse is located at 1605 Fort St. in Lincoln Park. On Aug. 31, they will host an event for National Opioid Awareness Day at Heritage Park in Taylor.



## **PRESS & GUIDE**

### **Dearborn Press & Guide | CDC issues public health alert regarding 'dramatic rise' in deaths involving synthetic opioids**

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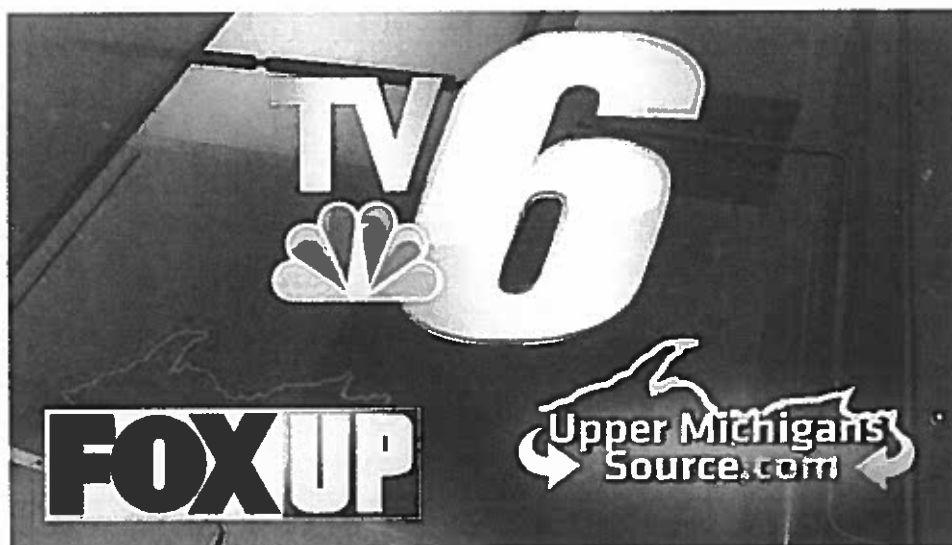
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## **FOX TV 6 | Health Alert Network update cites dramatic increase in synthetic opioid overdose deaths since 2015**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a Health Alert Network (HAN) update announcing dramatic increases in the number of opioid overdoses related to illicitly manufactured synthetic opioids including fentanyl, carfentanil and others. This is the second update to the original health advisory, HAN 384, which was released in October 2015.

"The Health Action Network update should put everyone on notice that the opioid epidemic is real and getting worse every day," said Rep. Joe Bellino (R-Monroe). "We must take action to prevent more Michiganders from getting addicted in the first place. Passing House Bill 5857, the Stemming Teen Opioid Pilfering- MI bill is a step in the right direction because it will reduce opioid pilfering, and protect teens from starting a cycle of abuse."

The report noted that increased supply and access to fentanyl and other synthetic opioids has resulted in a rise in overdose deaths across the nation. It also updated information to protect law enforcement and medical professionals from fentanyl exposure. The report also offered the following recommendations:

- Improve detection of fentanyl outbreaks to facilitate effective response
- Expand use of naloxone and opioid use disorder treatment

Given how rapidly this epidemic is evolving and growing in impact, finding a solution will require input from public health departments, medical examiners and coroners, law enforcement, laboratories, health care providers, harm reduction organizations and legislators.

In April, Rep. Bellino introduced HB 5857, which will require opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in Locking Prescription Vials. Experts believe the measure will prevent 150,000 Michigan children and teens from starting a cycle of abuse over a 10-year-period.

Pilfering, which is sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading cause of youth opioid abuse. Each year 960,000 children, nationwide, between the ages

of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse and many children start in middle school. Even worse, research shows that 80 percent of heroin addicts start out using prescription opioids.

The ineffective and outdated child-resistant vials currently being used have not been modified in nearly 50 years. When created in 1970, the goal was to prevent children age 5 and younger from accessing the family supply of aspirin. However, today's universe of medications is stronger and more addictive and some have been found to be 80 times stronger than morphine.

Nationally recognized Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have been calling for improved packaging of these highly addictive drugs for several years.

"HB 5857 will make pilfering tougher by requiring opioids be dispensed in inexpensive locking prescription vials that will ensure these addictive prescription drugs are accessible only by those who they are prescribed to," said Bellino. "Opioid abuse has claimed the lives of far too many Michiganders and is showing no signs of slowing down. We must act now to stop this epidemic from impacting more Michigan families."

HB 5857 has received support from Families Against Narcotics, a Michigan based nonprofit dedicated to educating communities about substance abuse, the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police and the Michigan Association for Local Public Health.



## **MIRS | Bellino Renews His Push For Legislation Mandating Locking Vials**

Citing a full-page ad in the Wall Street Journal by opioid manufacturer Purdue Pharma calling on drug manufacturers, policymakers, pharmacists, law enforcement and other stakeholders to take action to protect families from opioid addiction, Rep. Joseph BELLINO (R-Monroe) today renewed his push for legislation requiring locking prescription vials.

In April, Bellino introduced HB 5857 to require opioids and other highly addictive Schedule II drugs be dispensed in locking prescription vials, which look like pill bottles with bicycle locks on top of them. (See "Locking Pill Vials Pitched To Stop Teen Pill Pilfering," 4/24/18). "Purdue's recent ad in the Wall Street Journal is a strong signal that it's time for lawmakers to step up and pass legislation that reduces pilfering and protects families from this crisis," said Bellino today. "Opioid abuse has ravaged communities across our state and we must act now to prevent additional families from being impacted by this crisis."

He said his bill will reduce pilfering and protect Michigan children and teens from even starting the cycle of abuse.

Pilfering, sneaking a small number of pills hoping that it will go undetected, is the leading cause of youth opioid abuse, Bellino contended. Each year, 960,000 children nationwide between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse, and many children start in middle school. Even worse, research shows that 80 percent of heroin addicts start out using prescription opioids, he said.

"House Bill 5857 will modernize the outdated child-resistant vials used to dispense opioids and make it tougher for children and teens to get their hands on these highly addictive drugs," Bellino said.

Purdue Pharma is also among the drug makers facing lawsuits for deceptive marketing brought by cities, counties and states across the U.S. In February, it announced it would stop marketing OxyContin.



## **MIRS| Opioid Epidemic Still Growing - Bellino Town Hall Highlight Locking Vials**

It is clear that the opioid epidemic in Michigan still has not yet peaked, Rep. Joseph BELLINO (R-Monroe) said today after hosting a town hall back in his district.

"I heard more family tragedies, more gut-wrenching stories that reiterated what I already knew and that is what I wanted people to hear because there are still people out there who think it is not a huge problem or is associated with certain demographics, and it is not. These are all middle class, hard-working people and their kids got involved in pills and died of a drug overdose," Bellino said.

He used the event last week to highlight the need for his legislation, 🐾 HB 5857, which would require that opioids and other Schedule II drugs be dispensed in locking prescription vials, which look like a pill bottle with a bicycle lock on top. (See "Locking Pill Vials Pitched To Stop Teen Pill Pilfering," 4/24/18).

Bellino said the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently released statistics that shore up his contention that the epidemic only continues to get worse. Earlier this month, the CDC released 2017 numbers that showed more than 72,000 people died from opioid overdoses last year.

In Michigan, the number of opioid overdoses increased 12.6 percent in 2017 over the previous year. Some 2,686 opioid overdoses deaths occurred here in 2017, 300 more than occurred in 2016.

Pilfering is the act of stealing a few pills, hoping it will go undetected. Opioid pilfering is the number one source for youth opioid abuse, according to Bellino, and many youths start experimenting with prescription pills in middle school. Research shows each year nearly 600,000 children from across the country between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse by pilfering.

"If there wasn't over-prescribing, I don't think there would be a pilfering problem. Over the years, because of federal mandates and federal grading of hospitals on five different points and

the fifth being was your pain handled, that led to overprescribing,” Bellino said.

That has resulted in a lot of unused opioids sitting in people's medicine cabinets, only making pilfering more possible.

“An addict will steal the bottle or smash it but then whoever owns the bottle will know it has been taken, they'll investigate it, figure it out. But when you take two or three out, you never know they are going,” he said.

But lawmakers have already addressed the issue of overprescribing by updating and improving the Michigan Automated Prescription System. So now it is time to mandate the locking vials as the next step.

Bellino said he hopes to get a hearing on the bill in the fall, although he already anticipates opposition from drug makers.

“I've been talked to by big Pharma already. They don't like it at all. They don't like mandates, they don't like it at all. They don't want to spend anymore money, I guess. In the meantime, I'm looking at the *Wall Street Journal* and seeing full pages put out by Purdue pharmaceutical on what they are doing to help stem this addiction crisis. I think my pill bottle will be more important than some of the stuff they are doing that they are putting in the paper. So, if they are really concerned about it, let's jump on board and let's do this.”

Bellino said the cost of a locking vial is less than \$1 per bottle.

The Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have been calling for improved packaging of these highly addictive drugs for several years, Bellino contended.

🐾 [HB 5857](#) has received support from Families Against Narcotics, a Michigan-based nonprofit dedicated to educating communities about substance abuse; the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police; and the Michigan Association for Local Public Health.