

Senate Resolution 869

By: Senators McKoon of the 29th and Unterman of the 45th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Rate of Diagnosis for Children With Attention  
2 Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Related Disorders; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, nearly one in five high school age boys in the United States and 11 percent of  
4 school-age children over all have received a medical diagnosis of attention deficit  
5 hyperactivity disorder (A.D.H.D.), according to recent data from the federal Centers for  
6 Disease Control and Prevention; and

7 WHEREAS, these rates reflect a marked rise over the last decade and are fueling growing  
8 concern among many doctors that the A.D.H.D. diagnosis and its medication, and diagnoses  
9 of related disorders, are overused in American children; and

10 WHEREAS, figures show that an estimated 6.4 million children ages four through 17 have  
11 received an A.D.H.D. diagnosis at some point in their lives, a 16 percent increase since 2007  
12 and a 41 percent rise in the past decade; and

13 WHEREAS, about two-thirds of those with a current diagnosis receive prescriptions for  
14 stimulants like Ritalin or Adderall, which can drastically improve the lives of those with  
15 A.D.H.D., but can lead to addiction, anxiety, and occasionally psychosis; and

16 WHEREAS, the American Psychiatric Association's plan to change the definition of  
17 A.D.H.D. to allow more people to receive the diagnosis and treatment is being met with  
18 mixed results with some doctors and patient advocates welcoming the rise of diagnosis rates  
19 as evidence the disorder is being better recognized and accepted, and others suggesting that  
20 millions of children may be taking medication merely to calm behavior and to do better in  
21 school; and

22 WHEREAS, the sales of stimulants to treat A.D.H.D. and similar disorders more than  
23 doubled to \$9 billion in 2012 from \$4 billion in 2007, and a study is needed to determine if  
24 these drugs are being over-prescribed due to misdiagnosis and other reasons.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
26 Study Committee on the Rate of Diagnosis for Children With Attention Deficit Hyperactivity  
27 Disorder and Related Disorders to be composed of the chairperson of the Senate Health and  
28 Human Services Committee and four members of the Senate to be appointed by the President  
29 of the Senate. The chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee shall  
30 serve as chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the  
31 chairperson.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the diagnosis  
33 of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and related disorders to determine the issues and  
34 problems related thereto and recommend any action or legislation which the committee  
35 deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall include in its final report its findings  
36 and include any recommendations for changes to state law. The committee may conduct its  
37 meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable  
38 it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the  
39 objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the  
40 allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees from the  
41 funds appropriated by the Senate but shall receive the same for not more than five days  
42 unless additional days are authorized. The committee is directed to make a report of its  
43 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, not later  
44 than December 1, 2014. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2014.