A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING STATES EVALUATE AND IMPROVE STATUTES AND REGULATIONS ENABLING THEM TO ELIMINATE ILLEGITIMATE MEDICAL CLINICS COMMONLY KNOWN AS “PILL MILLS”

WHEREAS, a June 2011 report from the Institute of Medicine estimates that over 100 million American adults experience chronic pain, costing in excess of $500 billion per year; and;

WHEREAS, treatment by legitimate specialty pain management clinics, including the use of controlled substances is often necessary to provide pain relief and functional improvement for patients with chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, reports from a number of governmental agencies document the public health crisis associated with the misuse and abuse of prescription medications; and

WHEREAS, one source of medications diverted for such misuse and abuse is illegitimate medical clinics that often call themselves “pain management clinics,” but are commonly known as “pill mills”; and

WHEREAS, increasing the regulation of pain management clinics in order to address the illegal practices of the illegitimate clinics may unintentionally impede access to legitimate clinics for patients with pain;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) recommends to legislatures and regulatory agencies in all states that they evaluate the adequacy of existing laws and regulations prohibiting the practices of illegitimate medical clinics commonly known as “pill mills”;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA recommends that where necessary, states pursue legislation and regulatory remedies that enable more effective efforts to eliminate illegitimate medical clinics;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA recommends that states support efforts to ensure that access to appropriate care for patients with pain is not restricted by any statutory or regulatory changes sought to enable more effective efforts to eliminate illegitimate medical clinics.

ATTEST: ______________________
    President
Date: ________________