



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, overdose deaths continue to tragically take the lives of too many Tennesseans, causing hurt, pain, sorrow, and loss for thousands of families and communities across our State; and

WHEREAS, while fentanyl continues to be a major driver of overdose deaths in Tennessee, accounting for at least 70% of our state's overdose deaths, Tennessee and the United States are also seeing the rise of an emerging and dangerous substance known as Xylazine; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists, many with lived experience of addiction recovery, work tirelessly to educate Tennesseans and have distributed more than 1,000,000 doses of the life-saving opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone resulting in more than 66,000 documented lives saved; and

WHEREAS, as a result of several legal settlements with opioid producers and distributors, Tennessee's Opioid Abatement Council and local governments are beginning to receive tens of millions of dollars to address the harm caused by the opioid crisis and to implement innovative approaches in remediation efforts; and

WHEREAS, efforts to educate, equip, and empower people to respond to an overdose, reverse it, and save a life are reaching hundreds of thousands of Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this day is a time to remember loved ones lost to overdose, mourn alongside those who have lost family and friends, help those who have a substance abuse disorder find help, and work to end the stigma of addiction and drug-related deaths;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2023, as

Overdose Awareness Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this seventeenth day of August, 2023.

Bill Lee

Governor

Lee Hargett

Secretary of State