



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee honors the spirit of International Overdose Awareness Day by remembering loved ones lost to overdose, mourning alongside those who have lost family and friends, and working to end the stigma of substance misuse and drug-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, the number of Tennesseans dying from overdose is still tragically high, but thanks to the persistence of countless individuals, the growth in overdose deaths has plateaued; and

WHEREAS, substance misuse and overdose in Tennessee and across the United States continues to evolve with new and more complex substances including Xylazine; and

WHEREAS, fentanyl continues to be a major driver of overdose deaths in Tennessee still accounting for more than 70% of our state's overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS, Substance Use Prevention Coalitions across the state work to reach Tennessee's youth, young adults, and families with proven strategies to prevent substance misuse and stop addiction before it starts; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists and other community outreach staff, many with lived experience of addiction recovery, have worked tirelessly for the last seven years to educate Tennesseans and have distributed more than 1.4 million doses of the life-saving opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone resulting in more than 83,000 documented lives saved; and

WHEREAS, people who survive overdose have available to them many evidence-based treatment options for life-changing care offered through community-based organizations all across the state regardless of their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, men and women with lived experience of addiction recovery serving as Lifeline Peer Project Coordinators and Tennessee Recovery Navigators have connected tens of thousands of Tennesseans to treatment and recovery services in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, faith leaders all across Tennessee and countless people of faith have stepped up to respond to the overdose crisis by taking trainings, extending supports, and creating space for hope and healing with more than 1,100 Faith-Based Recovery Partners certified through the TDMHSAS Faith-Based Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee celebrates its citizens who have survived overdose and have found new lives free from substance misuse and who have reclaimed their full potential as contributors to families, communities, and workplaces;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2024, 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 twenty-ninth day of July 2024.

Bill Lee

Governor

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Secretary of State