



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

RESOLUTION

Recognizing August 31, 2020 as "International Overdose Awareness Day" in New Jersey

September 15, 2020

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August 31st each year to raise awareness of overdose, reduce the stigma of a drug-related death, and acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, the theme of International Overdose Awareness Day 2020 is *Time to Remember, Time to Act*, with the goal of making a difference in the effort to raise awareness about overdose, and spreading the message that overdose death is preventable; and

WHEREAS, thousands of people die each year from drug overdose, people from all walks of life, which is why it is important to learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of overdose, and the impact of drug use and overdose and family, friends, and those experiencing it; and

WHEREAS, North America continues to experience the highest drug-related mortality rate in the world, accounting for 1-in-4 drug-related deaths globally, with opioids accounting for the majority of drug-related deaths, and in most cases such deaths are avoidable; and

WHEREAS, this day provides an opportunity for people to publicly mourn for loved ones, some for the first time, without feeling guilt or shame and send a strong message to current and former drug users that they are valued; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse remains committed to raising awareness in order to combat the stigma associated with substance use disorders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse hereby recognizes August 31, 2020 as "Overdose Awareness Day" in New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Phil Murphy, the New Jersey Legislature, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services; County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Directors, and County Alliance Coordinators.



Neil Van Ess, Acting Chairman

9-15-2020
Date