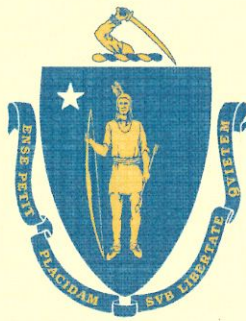


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, In 2022 an estimated 2,357 overdose deaths occurred in Massachusetts, with approximately 22,000 lives lost in the last decade, and overdose deaths involving opioids have increased by more than eight times in the last 20 years nationally; and

Whereas, As a national public health crisis, the overdose crisis continues to devastate our communities not only through the tremendous loss of life and associated trauma to families and loved ones, but also through a profound economic strain on individuals and families in health care costs, lost productivity, and criminal justice involvement; and

Whereas, In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, substance use disorders continue to disrupt the lives of our neighbors, loved ones, and fellow citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, or background; and

Whereas, Communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, and American Indian populations, continue to be disproportionately impacted by fatal overdoses and the criminalization of substance use disorder; and

Whereas, Societal misconceptions continue to reinforce harmful stigmas that prevent individuals from seeking evidence-based harm reduction, treatment, and recovery supports; and

Whereas, Overdose Awareness Day highlights the devastating realities of addiction and recognizes individuals' ongoing efforts to maintain their recovery; and

Whereas, Overdose Awareness Day provides a collective opportunity to publicly challenge the harmful stigmas that discourage individuals from seeking harm reduction, treatment and recovery services,

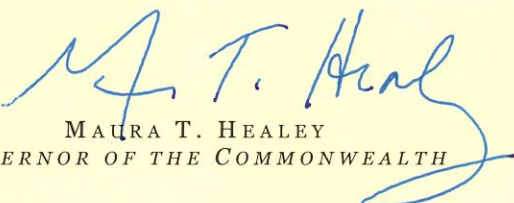
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim August 31st, 2023, to be,


OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY


And urge all the residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this thirty-first day of August, in the year two thousand and twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-seventh.

BY HER EXCELLENCY


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts