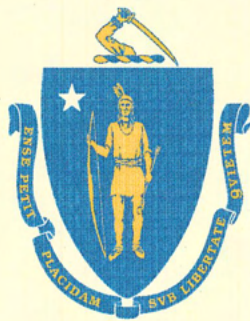


# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

Whereas, Almost a million people have died since 1999 from a drug overdose, on average overdose claims over 96,700 people in just one year, and in 2020 alone, drug overdose claimed 91,799 individuals in the United States. Preliminary reports indicate the number of drug overdose deaths in America increased 29.6% in 2020; and

Whereas, As a national public health crisis, the overdose epidemic 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, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

Whereas, In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the disease of addiction continues to disrupt the lives of our neighbors, loved ones, and fellow citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, or background; and

Whereas, Societal misconceptions continue to undermine the ongoing fight against addiction and 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 fight to maintain their recovery; and

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

Whereas, Overdose Awareness Day provides another opportunity for our fellow citizens to publicly mourn and remember loved ones who were lost to drug addiction; and

Whereas, As we strive forward in the fight against drug related overdoses, we should be encouraged to continue in our efforts to provide our loved ones, friends, coworkers, and neighbors with the support they need to overcome addiction,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to be,

## OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

And urge all the citizens 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-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts