



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, addiction is a disease and the discrimination associated with addiction must be addressed so that no one feels shame or disgrace because of a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, prescription and illegal drug overdoses are now the number one cause of accidental death in the Nation, surpassing car accidents; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 50,000 people die annually as a result of a drug overdose and another 2.5 million are treated in emergency departments for the misuse or abuse of drugs every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the Office of the State Medical Examiner, 2,221 people died from drug overdoses in 2016, and these numbers have increased in more recent years (largely from heroin or fentanyl); and

WHEREAS, by acknowledging residents who have been affected by overdose, we help the general public understand its effects on New Jersey's communities; and

WHEREAS, practitioners, persons at high risk, family members, and others can save lives by learning about the signs of an overdose and how to administer naloxone and then call 911; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse remains committed to raising awareness in order to combat stigma and to educate New Jersey's communities about overdose prevention; and

WHEREAS, August 31<sup>st</sup> is recognized in communities around the world as a day to remember individuals who were lost to drug overdose and to support their families and loved ones;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

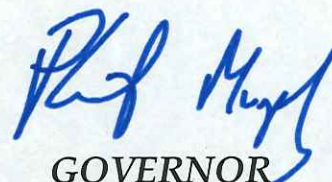
**AUGUST 31, 2018**  
**AS**  
**OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY**

in New Jersey and urge all residents to learn about this disease and to aid and support those who are affected by it.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-third day of August in the year two thousand eighteen, the two hundred forty-third year of the Independence of the United States.

  
Lt. GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR