

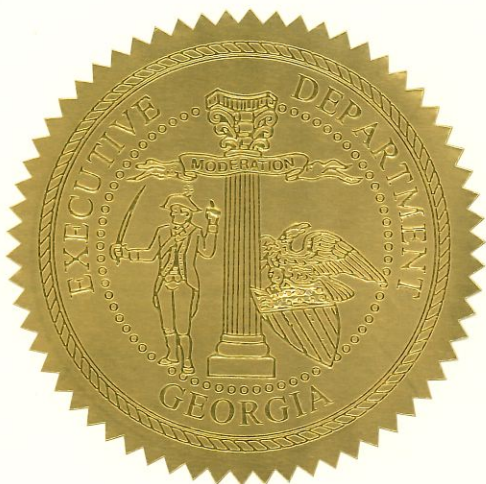
BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION ADVOCACY DAY

- WHEREAS:** Substance abuse affects millions of individuals of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds, as well as their families, friends, communities, and workplaces; and
- WHEREAS:** Through the leadership of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, prevention has become an effective science in Georgia, serving our communities through the 5 Steps of the Strategic Prevention Framework: 1) Assessing Needs; 2) Building Capacity; 3) Strategic Planning; 4) Implementation; and 5) Evaluation; and
- WHEREAS:** Of 1,300 deaths due to opioid overdose in 2020, 1,165 of those deaths were due to an overdose of a natural or synthetic opioid. Prevention helps save minds, lives, and futures, particularly of Georgia's youth and young adults, making Georgia a safer and healthier state; and
- WHEREAS:** 19 percent (28,444) of Georgia students report having their first alcoholic drink at 8 years old or younger. Primary prevention programs seek to stop the problem before it starts and secondary prevention seeks to stop the problem at its early stages, thus sparing thousands of children and adolescents and their families from the enormous suffering caused by drug abuse and addiction; and
- WHEREAS:** Prevention saves millions of dollars by reducing the enormous costs of drug abuse and addiction in our communities and workplaces. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 70 percent of people who use illegal drugs are employed, meaning the largest concentration of demand for drugs is in one place: the American workplace. Substance abuse prevention at work saves lives and money; and
- WHEREAS:** On Substance Abuse Prevention Advocacy Day and throughout the year, we recommit ourselves to helping Georgians who are trying to stop drug abuse and addiction before they begin, celebrate the individuals among us who are successfully living drug-free lives, and come alongside those seeking to begin or stay on the road to recovery; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 24, 2022, as SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION ADVOCACY DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 18th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

M. Kipertovich

CHIEF OF STAFF