

## 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 ethnicities 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; and

WHEREAS:

The five steps of the Strategic Prevention Framework are assessing needs, building capacity, strategic planning, implementation and evaluation. This framework has served

and continues to serve communities throughout our state; and

WHEREAS:

Overdose deaths due to opioids decreased from 1,007 in 2017 to 861 in 2018, demonstrating that prevention helps save minds, lives, and futures – particularly of

Georgia's youth and young adults - making our state safer and healthier; and

WHEREAS:

Nineteen percent of Georgia students report having their first alcoholic drink at eight years old or younger. Primary prevention seeks to stop the problem before it starts, while secondary prevention seeks to stop the problem at its early stages. These prevention measures have spared thousands of children, adolescents, and families from

the enormous suffering caused by drug abuse and addiction; and

WHEREAS:

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Prevention saves millions of dollars annually by reducing the enormous costs of drug abuse and addiction in our communities and workplaces. Seventy percent of people who use illegal drugs are employed, meaning the largest concentration of demand for drugs is in the American workplace. Substance abuse prevention at work saves lives and money; and

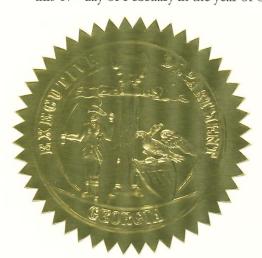
On Substance Abuse Prevention Advocacy Day and throughout the year, we must help Georgians who are attempting to stop drug abuse and addiction before it begins. We should also celebrate and commend the individuals among us who are successfully

living drug-free lives; now

THEREFORE:

I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 20, 2020 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 17th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.



GOVERNOR

CHIEF OF STAFE