



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:** 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
- WHEREAS:** 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.



B. P. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Trinity K. Fleming

CHIEF OF STAFF