

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

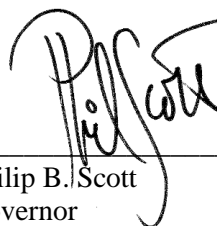
- WHEREAS,** prescription opioid use and abuse leading to opioid-use disorder and catastrophic outcomes has become a national crisis; and
- WHEREAS,** the leading cause of injury death in the United States is drug overdose, and most deaths from drug overdose involve an opioid; and
- WHEREAS,** from 1999 to 2016, more than 350,000 people – more than three times the U.S. military deaths during the 20 years of the Vietnam War – have died in the U.S. from overdoses involving an opioid; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2017, there were 101 accidental or undetermined opioid-related fatalities among Vermont residents; and
- WHEREAS,** prescription opioids are often recommended for low back, neck, and musculoskeletal pain management; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont has put in place legal requirements for the appropriate prescribing of opioids in treating acute pain, which is having a positive impact – reducing the amount of opioid medication being prescribed, while ensuring that patients receive the pain management they need; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 100 million Americans suffer from chronic pain, and an estimated 75 to 85 percent of all Americans will experience some form of back pain during their lifetime; and
- WHEREAS,** studies have documented spinal manipulation as effective for the management of low back pain; and
- WHEREAS,** among those health care providers who specialize in non-opioid treatment, Doctors of Chiropractic are educated and trained to effectively address spinal and neuromusculoskeletal pain with non-surgical, non-drug management.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim October 2018 as

DRUG-FREE PAIN MANAGEMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 5th day of October, A.D. 2018



Philip B. Scott
Governor





Jaye Pershing Johnson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs