

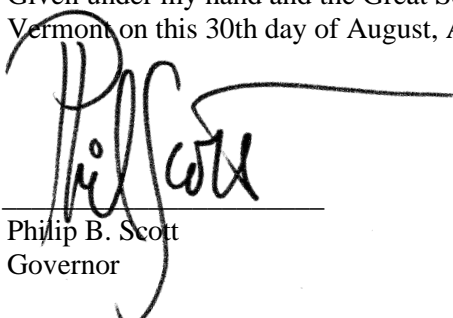
State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation


- WHEREAS,** prescription opioid misuse leading to addiction and catastrophic outcomes has become a national crisis; and
- WHEREAS,** the leading cause of injury death in the United States is drug overdose, and a majority of the deaths from drug overdose deaths involved an opioid; and
- WHEREAS,** from 1999 to 2019, nearly 500,000 people have died in the United States from overdoses related to opioids; and
- WHEREAS,** we are losing 136 people a day from opioid overdoses and nearly 49,860 people died from opioid overdoses in the United States in 2019 which is 70.6% of all drug overdose deaths; and
- WHEREAS,** the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is estimated around \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and
- WHEREAS,** prescription opioids are often recommended for low back, neck and musculoskeletal pain management; and
- WHEREAS,** over 100 million suffer from chronic pain and an estimated 80 percent of all Americans will experience some form of back pain during their lifetime; and
- WHEREAS,** doctors of chiropractic are educated and trained to effectively address spinal and neuro-musculoskeletal pain with non-surgical, non-drug management; and
- WHEREAS,** numerous published studies, including The Lancet (March 2018), document spinal manipulation as effective for the management of low back pain; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bulletin of the World Health Organization published recommendations to manage low back pain initially with non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as spinal manipulation (chiropractic adjustments), while avoiding opioids, spinal injections and surgery.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim September 2021 as

DRUG-FREE PAIN MANAGEMENT AWARENESS MONTH
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 30th day of August, A.D. 2021.


Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs