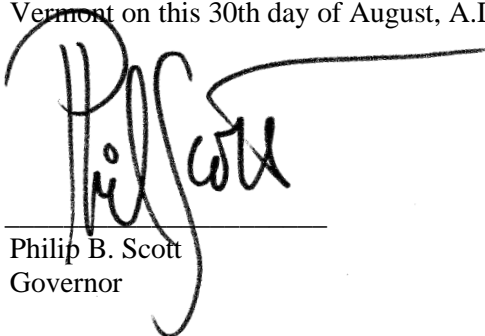


**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** Vermont has seen a 36% increase in the number of fatal opioid overdoses between 2020 and 2021, making 2021 the year with the highest number of fatal opioid overdoses to date, and 77 Vermonters have lost their life to an opioid overdose through May 2022; and
- WHEREAS,** the drug supply continues to change and add complexity to Vermonters trying to prevent an overdose, with fentanyl being involved in 93% of fatal overdoses in 2021, cocaine being involved in 48% and xylazine being involved in 14% of fatal opioid overdoses in 2021; and
- WHEREAS,** most victims of overdose are young people in the prime of their lives and the death of a young person from a preventable cause is a tragedy; and
- WHEREAS,** the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted substance use and particularly opioid overdoses in Vermont and across the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermonters experiencing opioid use disorder continue to face stigma which can be a barrier to reaching out for potentially life-saving harm reduction, treatment, or recovery services; and
- WHEREAS,** harm reduction, treatment, and recovery partners in Vermont continue to work tirelessly in expanding evidence-based services and to support Vermonters in reducing their risk of overdose; and
- WHEREAS,** this year, the State of Vermont increased investment in prevention, treatment, and recovery resources by nearly nine million dollars to strengthen work and save lives; and
- WHEREAS,** service providers, first responders, Vermonters using opioids, and their loved ones have worked to address stigma and increase education and resources to reduce Vermonters' risk of overdose; and
- WHEREAS,** the lives of families and friends are gravely affected by these tragic losses and more support is essential to support the grieving; and
- WHEREAS,** a day to reflect on the loss of a loved one is necessary to promote healing to those affected by substance use death.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim August 31, 2022 as

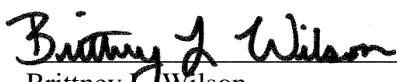
**OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY
in Vermont.**

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 30th day of August, A.D. 2022.



Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs