

**State of Vermont  
Executive Department  
A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** Vermont saw a 3.3% decrease in the number of fatal opioid overdoses between 2022 and 2023; and

**WHEREAS,** 236 Vermont residents lost their lives to overdose in 2023, marking a decrease from 2022 as the highest number of fatal opioid overdoses to date; and

**WHEREAS,** 65 Vermonters have lost their life to an opioid overdose as of May within 2024; and

**WHEREAS,** a rapidly changing and increasingly toxic drug supply, including non-opioid adulterants that do not respond to overdose reversal tools like naloxone, continues to challenge efforts to combat overdoses in our state; and

**WHEREAS,** substance use disorder is a disease and should be addressed as a medical condition; 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,** raising awareness about substance use disorder combats stigma and promotes health; and

**WHEREAS,** harm reduction, treatment, and recovery partners in Vermont continue to support the health of Vermonters in reducing their risk of overdose and provided continuous service despite the pandemic and recent natural disaster that hit our state; and

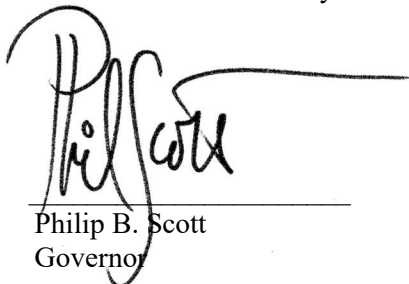
**WHEREAS,** government and public health leaders continue to increase investments in harm reduction, prevention, treatment, and recovery resources to strengthen and save lives; and

**WHEREAS,** awareness about the crisis in overdoses and deaths helps empower every Vermonter to be a knowledgeable, active participant and potential life saver should they encounter someone in distress.

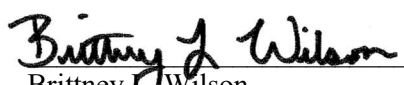
**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim August 31, 2024, as

**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. 2024.

  
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Philip B. Scott  
Governor



  
Brittney J. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs