CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AUGUST 31

AS OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor:  Steve Eliason

Senate Sponsor:   David G. Buxton

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution declares August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

> recognizes the impact of overdose on the state;

> describes the importance of recognizing Overdose Awareness Day; and

> declares August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day, and urges Utahns to remember, raise awareness, and do their part to support those impacted by overdose.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day aims to raise awareness of overdose, to reduce the stigma surrounding overdose related fatalities, and to remember those who have died or suffered as a result of overdose;

WHEREAS, communities across our state continue to be impacted by overdose related fatalities, as well as by the struggles of loved ones with substance use disorders and mental health disorders;

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event recognized with
local events and by lowering of the flag at all state buildings to half staff;
WHEREAS, the state of Utah has recognized the dire nature of the opioid crisis placing Utah as high as fourth in the nation for overdose fatalities;
WHEREAS, overdose claimed the lives of 495 Utahns in 2019;
WHEREAS, Utah has had widespread efforts from the Legislature, state agencies, the medical community, community-based organizations, the recovery community, first responders, and individual community members to recognize and act in this time of crisis; and
WHEREAS, through directed efforts such as implementation of naloxone education and access, broad opioid awareness and education campaigns, peer support services, access to treatment, and implementation of crisis receiving centers, the death toll is decreasing, and Utah is now one of only a few states with a decreasing overdose death rate:
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, declares August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day and joins in the nationwide movement to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and remember those lost to overdose.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage citizens of Utah to observe Overdose Awareness Day as a time to remember, raise awareness, and do their part to be kind and supportive of those impacted in this manner.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Lieutenant Governor for recognition of Overdose Awareness Day.