



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

OPERATION MEDICINE DROP WEEK

AND

OPERATION MEDICINE DROP TAKE-BACK SATURDAY

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, death by unintentional poisoning has surpassed unintentional motor vehicle crashes to become the first leading cause of injury death in North Carolina; an average of four North Carolinians died per day from opioid overdose, with 48 percent of those deaths involving prescription opioids; and

WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2016, more than 12,000 North Carolinians died from opioid-related overdoses, the majority of which were unintentional overdoses; the cost of unintentional opioid-related overdose deaths in North Carolina totaled more than \$1.7 billion in 2016; and

WHEREAS, instruction on safe drug disposal is an important component of the public education strategy of North Carolina's Opioid Action Plan 2017-2021 to increase community awareness and prevention; and

WHEREAS, events like Operation Medicine Drop allow for safe disposal of opioids and other prescription and non-prescription drugs in a secure manner, without endangering the environment, and eliminate the risk of these drugs getting into the hands of our children and teens from the medicine cabinets of friends or family, which is the most common means of accessibility by that age group; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Safe Kids NC, North Carolina State Attorney General's Office, United States Drug Enforcement Administration, and North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, Operation Medicine Drop has collected and properly incinerated more than 105 million pill dosages from 2010-2017, through permanent drop boxes and at events throughout our state; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is pleased to partner with Operation Medicine Drop to collect unused, unwanted, and expired medications across North Carolina, and to safely dispose of them to prevent misuse or abuse of opioid prescription drugs, as well as all other prescription and non-prescription drugs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 18 – 24, 2018, as “**OPERATION MEDICINE DROP WEEK**” and March 24, 2018, as “**OPERATION MEDICINE DROP TAKE-BACK SATURDAY**” in North Carolina, and commend observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fifteenth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.