



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

STATEWIDE OPERATION MEDICINE DROP DAY

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the second leading cause of unintentional injury death in North Carolinians is unintentional poisoning, second only to motor vehicle crashes; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, more than 1,000 North Carolinians died from unintentional overdose; 80 percent of these deaths were related to prescription drugs, primarily pain killers; and

WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2015, unintentional poisoning deaths increased by 391 percent; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, opioid analgesics – or prescription pain-killers – were involved in more drug deaths than cocaine and heroin combined; and

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

WHEREAS, events like Operation Medicine Drop allow for the disposal of opioids and other prescription and non-prescription drugs in a safe and secure manner; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this initiative is to dispose of opioids in a way that protects the environment, and eliminates the risk of these drugs getting into the hands of our children and teens; the most common means of accessibility for this age group is through the medicine cabinets of friends or family; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 28, 2017, as “STATEWIDE OPERATION MEDICINE DROP DAY” in North Carolina, and commend its 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 thirteenth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.