



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

DRUG-FREE PAIN MANAGEMENT AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the overuse and abuse of prescription opioid painkillers has become a statewide and national crisis; 55 people die per day from the abuse of prescription opioids; and

WHEREAS, drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, and opioid addiction is driving this epidemic: of the 52,404 lethal drug overdoses across our country in 2015, at least 20,101 were related to prescription pain relievers; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has been hit particularly hard by this health care crisis; over the past 12 years, deaths from drug overdoses have quadrupled; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, prescription opioids – such as oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), methadone, and fentanyl – were involved in more than 50 percent of drug poisoning deaths in our state; and

WHEREAS, prescription opioids are often recommended for the management of low back, neck, and musculoskeletal pain; more than 100 million people in the United States suffer from chronic pain, and an estimated 75 to 85 percent of all Americans will experience some form of back pain during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in many instances options are available to treat pain without drugs, and patients can benefit from knowing more about these options; for example, doctors of chiropractic are educated and trained to effectively address spinal and musculoskeletal conditions with non-surgical, drug-free pain management, a method of healthcare which must play a major role in helping to ease the immense burden facing our state; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Chiropractic Association and thousands of chiropractors across our state share the goal of ending opioid abuse, and increasing the utilization of drug-free conservative forms of health care for the management of pain; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina supports all efforts to combat the opioid crisis and address prescription drug abuse in order to save lives in our communities and across the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2017, as “**DRUG-FREE PAIN MANAGEMENT AWARENESS MONTH**” 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 twenty-eighth day of August 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.