



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

## A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, across our nation, alcohol abuse is a major public health problem that affects Americans from all communities and of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS** alcohol kills more children than all illegal drugs combined; and

**WHEREAS**, the average age North Carolina children begin drinking is 14; and,

**WHEREAS**, because the logical decision-making center of the brain is not fully developed until age 22-25 years, the adolescent brain responds to alcohol very differently than an adult brain; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the unique way their brains are wired, adolescents are prone to risk-taking behavior and are more inclined to binge drink; binge drinking slows—and can ultimately stop—faculties of the brain that control vital functions such as breathing; and

**WHEREAS**, 94 percent of North Carolina students believe underage drinking is a problem and want their parents to talk to them about the issue: 8 in 10 North Carolina middle schoolers claim that if their parents were to talk to them more about alcohol use, this discussion would help stop the problem; and,

**WHEREAS**, minimizing access to alcohol creates a barrier that can protect children from harm; and

**WHEREAS**, alcohol abuse and dependency is treatable; however, stigma surrounding the subject remains an issue that can cause people to avoid treatment and, as such, the State of North Carolina is working to decrease this stigma through increased awareness, education, discussion, and community mobilization around alcohol abuse and dependency;

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina is working to mobilize efforts within communities across our state to implement strategies that prevent alcohol abuse and dependency by decreasing underage access to alcohol, changing community norms that promote underage and excessive alcohol consumption, and addressing policies pertaining to underage and excessive drinking;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April, 2017, as “ALCOHOL 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 third day of April 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.