

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

RECONNECT NC DAY

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Institute for Emerging Issues at North Carolina State University launched a movement to examine the root causes of social disconnection and the serious and measurable consequences it has for North Carolina's economy and on individual well-being; and

WHEREAS, fewer than half of North Carolinians report talking to neighbors frequently; nearly 75 percent do not volunteer in the community and only eight percent work with neighbors to address community challenges; and

WHEREAS, reports of adult loneliness have doubled since the 1980's, to 40 percent; and

WHEREAS, disconnected individuals are far more likely to suffer chronic and acute health problems; reduced social engagement has been known to reduce lifespans at about the same rate as smoking 15 cigarettes a day; and

WHEREAS, disconnected workers make up almost 40 percent of the total potential workforce in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, approximately 768,000 potential workers aged 25-54 in North Carolina were not employed or looking for employment in 2017, a substantial increase since 2000; their absence costs billions in lost productivity and social service expenses; and

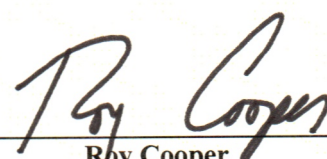
WHEREAS, without strong ties to employers, schools, local communities and neighbors, people are far less likely to contribute to economic growth, maintain their health or participate in the social and civic activities that define our shared quality of life; and

WHEREAS, local communities and their shared traditions, willingness to work and history of coming together in the toughest of times to solve the biggest of challenges spark this commitment to reconnection; and

WHEREAS, communities are the experts that can lead change and inspire others to become part of a more connected North Carolina; communities across North Carolina have expressed interest in bringing together residents from all walks of life to discuss the biggest issues facing their neighborhoods, regions and the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 14, 2019, as "**RECONNECT NC 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 sixth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-third.