

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AUGUST 31, 2021 AS
OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY IN MAINE

WHEREAS, substance use disorder is a chronic disease characterized by the problematic, compulsive or difficult-to-control use of drugs and other substances, despite harmful consequences; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorder, particularly when it involves opioid drugs, is seen by both the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too easily lead to overdose and death; and

WHEREAS, there were 70,980 individuals in the United States who died from drug overdoses in 2019, with 380 of those deaths in Maine; and

WHEREAS, a life cut short by an opioid overdose death is devastating for the family and loved ones left behind and is a tragic reminder of the significant and complex challenges we face in communities throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, for every drug overdose that results in death, there are many more nonfatal overdoses, each taking an emotional and economic toll on individuals, their families and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, a substance use disorder can fuel feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment, depression and hopelessness, causing individuals to resist seeking treatment and support; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August 31st of each year that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses, reduce the stigma of a drug-related death and acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who died or were permanently injured as a result of a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Overdose Awareness Day in Maine sends a strong message to former and current substance users, namely, that they are valued and that overdose death is preventable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize August 31, 2021 as Overdose Awareness Day; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we recommend that the United States flag and Maine state flag be flown at half-staff on August 31, 2021 in memory of those who have lost their lives to substance use disorder; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the national chapter of Team Sharing, Inc.