

1 A RESOLUTION designating August 31 of each year as Overdose Awareness Day  
2 in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, substance use disorder is a chronic disease characterized by  
4 compulsive or difficult-to-control drug use despite harmful consequences; and

5 WHEREAS, substance use disorder is seen by both the Centers for Disease Control  
6 and Prevention and the World Health Organization as a fast-growing epidemic that can all  
7 too easily lead to overdose and death; and

8 WHEREAS, more than 81,000 individuals in the United States died from drug  
9 overdoses in 2020; and

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August 31 of each  
17 year to raise awareness of drug overdoses, to reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths,  
18 and to acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have  
19 died or have a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose; and

20 WHEREAS, to advance the purpose of Overdose Awareness Day, all flags should  
21 be flown at half-staff throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the day's duration;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, recognizing Overdose Awareness Day in Kentucky sends a strong  
24 message to former or current addictive substance users that they are valued and that  
25 overdose death is preventable;

26 NOW, THEREFORE,

27 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***

1 ***Kentucky:***

2       ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby designates August 31 of each year as Overdose  
3 Awareness Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

4       ➔Section 2. The Senate respectfully requests that the Governor order flags flown  
5 at half-staff and issue a proclamation calling on public officials and the residents of the  
6 Commonwealth of Kentucky to observe Overdose Awareness Day with appropriate  
7 activities and programs each year.

8       ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
9 Resolution to Senator Rick Girdler.