

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION designating August 31, 2023, as "Overdose  
2 Awareness Day" in remembrance of the lives of Kentuckians lost to drug overdoses.

3 WHEREAS, addiction remains one of the most critical public health and safety  
4 issues facing the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

5 WHEREAS, in particular, the illegal distribution and abuse of prescription drugs,  
6 heroin, methamphetamine, and illicit fentanyl have contributed to an alarming, sustained  
7 increase in overdose deaths; and

8 WHEREAS, the most recent Kentucky statistics reported that 1,964 Kentuckians  
9 died of an overdose in 2020 and 2,250 Kentuckians in 2021; and

10 WHEREAS, this ongoing surge in overdoses is plaguing both rural and urban areas  
11 in Kentucky; and

12 WHEREAS, the loss of Kentuckians to drug overdoses is devastating and extremely  
13 heartbreaking;

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

15 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
16 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

17 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky  
18 designates August 31, 2023, as "Overdose Awareness Day" in remembrance of the lives  
19 of Kentuckians lost to drug overdoses.

20 ➔Section 2. The Governor is encouraged to issue an annual proclamation  
21 recognizing "Overdose Awareness Day" and calling upon state officials to display the  
22 United States flag at half-staff on all state buildings from sunrise to sunset on this day.  
23 The Governor is further encouraged to request that a portion of the day be used for  
24 solemn contemplation of the loss of Kentuckians' lives to the critical public health and  
25 safety issue that is the overdose of prescription and illegal drugs.