



Gary Richard Herbert
Governor

Declaration

Whereas, 115 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose;

Whereas, twenty-nine percent of Utahns report knowing someone who is a regular user of prescription opioids, and six percent report knowing someone who is a regular user of heroin;

Whereas, one in four Utahns suffer from chronic pain, and one in three use opioids to manage their pain;

Whereas, as many as sixty-six opioid prescriptions were dispensed per 100 persons in Utah;

Whereas, of those prescriptions, twelve percent were considered high-doses and eighteen percent overlapped with benzodiazepines putting Utahns at risk for overdose;

Whereas, anyone taking prescription opioids can become addicted, which poses a major threat to the health of Utahns;

Whereas, the rate of non-fatal opioid overdoses has increased over the past three years;

Whereas, it is critical to increase efforts that support health providers, including mental health providers, to expand work in early intervention, treatment, and prevention;

Whereas, it is also critical to look at underlying causes and how pain is managed in Utah;

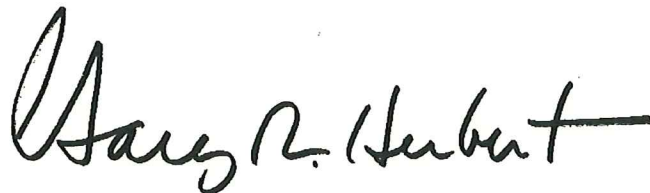
Whereas, timely data collection and dissemination is needed to support evidence-based programs;

Whereas, a sustained, multimodal approach is required to decrease opioid abuse, misuse, and overdose; and

Whereas, we commend the Utah Coalition for Opioid Overdose Prevention for fostering partnerships across federal, state, and local agencies and across public and private sectors to prevent and reduce opioid abuse, misuse, and overdose deaths in Utah through a coordinated response informed by data- and evidence-driven programs;

Now, therefore, I, Gary R. Herbert, Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby proclaim October 1-7, 2018 as

Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week in Utah



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