



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, across our nation and our state, alcohol abuse is a major public health problem that affects people of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, alcohol kills more children than all illegal drugs combined; excessive drinking is responsible for more than 4,300 deaths and 189,000 emergency room visits by underage youth each year; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that underage drinking damages developing brain cells; 32 percent of North Carolina high school students report having at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days, and over 45 percent of those students binge drink; and

WHEREAS, underage drinking costs North Carolinians \$1.3 billion each year in medical care, loss of work, and pain and suffering associated with problems resulting from the use of alcohol by youth; and

WHEREAS, 94 percent of North Carolina's youth consider underage drinking a problem, and more than half think it is a serious problem; however, less than half of North Carolina parents share this view; and

WHEREAS, a supportive family environment is associated with lowered rates of alcohol use for adolescents; youth who have conversations with their parents and learn about the dangers of alcohol and drug use are 50 percent less likely to use alcohol and drugs than those who don't have these conversations; and

WHEREAS, alcohol abuse and dependency is treatable, but stigma remains an issue that can cause people to avoid treatment; the State of North Carolina is working to decrease the stigma associated with alcohol abuse and dependence through increased awareness, education, discussion and community mobilization; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is working to mobilize efforts within communities to decrease underage access to alcohol, change community norms that promote underage and excessive alcohol consumption, and address policies pertaining to underage and excessive drinking; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages parents, government agencies, and public and private institutions to support early education about alcoholism and addiction, and provide hope, help, and healing for those in our communities who are facing challenges with alcohol use and abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April, 2018, as "**ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH**" 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 twenty-third day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.