



Proclamation By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, the focus of National Prevention Week is to prevent substance abuse and promote mental health. The theme, "Inspiring Action. Changing Lives," serves as a reminder that we can all inspire positive change throughout the year. Every day and everywhere, whether we make healthy choices for ourselves or inspire others to do so, the small actions we take can change lives for the better; and

WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2017, more than 700,000 people have died from a drug overdose, and on average, 130 Americans die daily from an opioid overdose. These statistics have led Alabama to be ranked as one of the states with the highest rates of painkiller use in the nation; and

WHEREAS, all Alabamians experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives and should feel comfortable in seeking help and support to manage these times; and

WHEREAS, through National Prevention Week, people become more aware and able to recognize the signs of mental health and substance abuse disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Alabama Opioid Council encourage everyone to recognize the seriousness of behavioral health issues in our communities, the power of prevention and the tireless efforts of those working to make a difference; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and citizen have a responsibility to promote mental health and well-being for all; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Alabama Opioid Council call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, faith-based communities, businesses and schools in Alabama to commit to increasing awareness and understanding of behavioral health. It is important to inform citizens of the steps they can take to protect their mental health and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people affected by mental illnesses and substance abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 12 through 18, 2019, as

National Prevention Week and May 13, 2019, as Preventing Prescription and Opioid Drug Misuse Day

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City
of Montgomery on the 1st day of May 2019.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor