



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, substance use and mental health problems affect all communities nationwide. An estimated 243,000 people 18 and over in Alabama have substance use disorders, while 680,000 Alabamians suffer from mental illness; and*

*WHEREAS, statistically Alabama has more opioids prescriptions than the whole population of the state, ranking #1 in the country; and*

*WHEREAS, the focus of National Prevention Week is to prevent substance use and promote mental health. The theme, "Action Today. Healthier Tomorrow" reminds that simple, daily acts of prevention, such as helping a friend make positive choices or supporting a family member in need, can lead to healthier lives; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health encourages 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 has a responsibility to promote mental health and well-being; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health calls upon citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Alabama to commit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 13-19, 2018, as*

## National Prevention Week

*in the State of Alabama and encourage all citizens to be aware of the harm of opioid abuse and the need for proper mental health care for those struggling with addiction.*



*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 30<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor