

## **SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 705**

Whereas, nearly 841,000 individuals in the United States have died from a drug overdose since 1999; and

Whereas, substance use disorders and drug overdoses affect all socioeconomic groups, racial and ethnic groups, geographic regions, and ages; and

Whereas, substance use disorders are a chronic disease, and recognizing those disorders as such decreases stigma and acknowledges that substance use may be beyond the control of an individual; and

Whereas, overdose deaths are preventable, and lives can be saved through awareness, prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support; and

Whereas, substance use disorder is seen by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too easily lead to overdose and death; and

Whereas, more than 100,000 individuals in the United States died from drug overdoses in the twelve month period ending April 2021; and

Whereas, for every drug overdose that results in death, there are many more nonfatal overdoses, each taking an emotional and economic toll on the individual, their family, and the community at large; and

Whereas, substance use disorder can fuel feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment, depression, and hopelessness, causing individuals to resist seeking treatment and support; and

Whereas, International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August 31st of each year to raise awareness of drug overdoses, to reduce the stigma of drug-

related deaths, and to acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or have a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose; and

Whereas, recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day in Missouri sends a strong message to former or current addictive substance users that they are valued and that overdose death is preventable:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred First General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby designate August 31, 2022, as International Overdose Awareness Day in Missouri; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Senate requests that the Governor order the capitol building to be lit in purple on that day and issue a proclamation calling on public officials and the residents of the State of Missouri to observe International Overdose Awareness Day with appropriate activities and programs each year.