



MorePowerfulNC.org

## RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MORE POWERFUL NC CAMPAIGN

**WHEREAS** the opioid epidemic, overdose deaths, and substance misuse pose a threat to the life, health, and well-being of North Carolina residents;

**WHEREAS** life expectancy in the United States has declined for three years in a row for the first time since World War I, fueled in large part by a record number of drug overdose deaths;

**WHEREAS** more people die from drug overdoses than car crashes;

**WHEREAS** more than 13,000 North Carolina residents lost their lives to unintentional opioid overdoses between 1999 and 2017;

**WHEREAS** the number of unintentional opioid overdose deaths in our state was nearly 17 times higher in 2017 than it was in 1999;

**WHEREAS** more than 2,000 North Carolinians lost their lives to opioid overdoses in 2017 alone, or more than five people a day on average;

**WHEREAS** for every opioid overdose death, there are nearly two hospitalizations and nearly four emergency department visits in North Carolina (based on 2017 data);

**WHEREAS** the opioid epidemic has contributed to a rise in Hepatitis C and heart valve infections (endocarditis), among other serious and costly health consequences;

**WHEREAS** the opioid epidemic has contributed to a significant rise in the number and rate of hospitalizations associated with drug withdrawal in newborns and a rise in the number of children in foster care;

**WHEREAS** the economic cost of the opioid crisis exceeded \$500 billion in 2015 – equal to 2.8 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that year, according to the White House Council of Economic Advisers;

**WHEREAS** the opioid epidemic has imposed significant and continuing costs on our healthcare, criminal justice, and social service systems;

**WHEREAS** the opioid epidemic has imposed major costs on private employers and the economy as a whole through excess sick days, disability claims, diminished productivity, and lost productivity due to incarceration and premature death;

**WHEREAS** the opioid epidemic, overdose deaths, and substance misuse cause pain, suffering, and loss to individuals, families, and communities that can never be measured;

**WHEREAS** the opioid epidemic has affected \_\_\_\_\_ [county, city, town, healthcare provider, business, foundation, non-profit, association, university, college, school, community coalition, faith community, or other entity] in these ways:

*[Please describe impact. For county-specific data, you may refer to the NC Opioid Action Plan Data Dashboard here: <https://injuryfreenc.shinyapps.io/OpioidActionPlan/>, and for additional sources of data visit: <https://www.morepowerfulnc.org/get-involved/data-supported-prevention-methods/>.]*

**WHEREAS** an effective response to the opioid epidemic combines prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and law enforcement strategies – including those outlined in North Carolina’s Opioid Action Plan and described on [www.MorePowerfulNC.org](http://www.MorePowerfulNC.org);

**WHEREAS** an effective response to the opioid epidemic requires commitment and collaboration among federal, state, and local governments as well as healthcare providers, businesses, foundations, non-profits, universities, colleges, schools, community coalitions, faith communities, and other community partners;

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that \_\_\_\_\_ *[county, city, town, healthcare provider, business, foundation, non-profit, association, university, college, school, community coalition, faith community, or other entity]* will join forces with others to address the opioid epidemic in *[location]* by *[include all that apply]*:

- ✓ Joining the More Powerful NC opioid awareness campaign as a partner; *[visit <https://www.morepowerfulnc.org/about/become-a-partner/>]*
- ✓ Encouraging community members with substance use disorders to connect with treatment and recovery resources, and offering support and assistance to their families and loved ones;
- ✓ Supporting community members in treatment and recovery by getting the facts about addiction, treatment, and recovery, helping to dispel myths and misconceptions, and reducing stigma;
- ✓ Supporting community members in treatment and recovery by improving or expanding these treatment and recovery support services: \_\_\_\_\_ *[e.g., housing, transportation, peer-to-peer support, and other strategies discussed at <https://www.morepowerfulnc.org/get-help/supporting-people-in-treatment-recovery/>]*
- ✓ Encouraging community members to dispose of leftover medications and to secure needed medications that remain in the home;
- ✓ Encouraging community members to talk to healthcare providers – and encouraging healthcare providers to talk to patients and community members – about the risks associated with prescription pain medications and alternatives to opioids for treating pain;
- ✓ Encouraging community members to talk to their children, families, and loved ones about risks related to drug misuse and methods for coping with social pressure, stress, and other challenges;
- ✓ Working with members of the faith community and encouraging them to get involved in efforts to address the opioid epidemic;
- ✓ Working with local schools to offer programs and curricula that help foster healthy students and discourage misuse of opioids and other drugs;
- ✓ Working with the business community to support community efforts to address the opioid epidemic and to create healthy and recovery-friendly workplaces;
- ✓ Encouraging community members to call 911 to report overdoses and to increase awareness of the state’s Good Samaritan law;
- ✓ Increasing awareness of and access to the overdose reversal drug naloxone;
- ✓ Creating, expanding, or supporting syringe exchange programs to reduce the risk of disease and overdose and improve access to healthcare and treatment;

- ✓ Working with first responders and emergency departments to develop post-overdose response strategies that connect overdose survivors to treatment, harm reduction, and other services and supports;
- ✓ Working with law enforcement, district attorneys, judges, court personnel, and reentry councils to connect individuals with substance use disorders to drug treatment and other services, develop pre-arrest diversion programs, support treatment and recovery courts, offer drug treatment in prisons and jails, and connect people who are released from jail or prison to treatment and other services;
- ✓ Taking these additional actions: *[For additional information, please refer to the More Powerful NC website ([www.MorePowerfulNC.org](http://www.MorePowerfulNC.org)) and North Carolina's Opioid Action Plan (<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/departments/initiatives/opioid-epidemic/north-carolinas-opioid-action-plan>).*]

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*[signed]*

on behalf of

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*[county, city, town, healthcare provider, business, foundation, non-profit, association, university, college, school, community coalition, faith community, or other entity]*