

STATE OF MONTANA



Governor's Proclamation



WHEREAS, over 50 million people suffer with chronic pain, and an estimated 80% of all Americans will experience some form of back pain during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, prescription opioids are often recommended for low back, neck and musculoskeletal pain management, of which 1 in 4 patients end up battling with opioid use disorder; and

WHEREAS, opioid use and abuse leading to addiction remains a national crisis, with the leading cause of injury death in the United States being drug overdose, a majority of which involve an opioid; and

WHEREAS, more than 130 million opioid prescriptions were dispensed to American patients in 2022, which translates to 1/3 of the U.S. population receiving a prescription opioid; and

WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2022, nearly 310,000 Americans have lost their lives to overdoses involving prescription opioids, with more than 106,000 drug overdose deaths reported in 2021 alone; and

WHEREAS, the costs for opioid use disorder and fatal opioid overdose are estimated to be over \$1 trillion, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim September 2024

DRUG-FREE PAIN MANAGEMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in Montana to raise public awareness that chiropractic care is a safe and effective approach to relieve acute pain.

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor