**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021, AS OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO EXPRESS HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES TO OVERDOSE.

Whereas, recognizing that addiction is a disease, International Overdose Awareness Day aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug‑related death; and

Whereas, International Overdose Awareness Day acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have met with death or permanent injury as a result of drug overdose; and

Whereas, the United States leads the world in drug overdose deaths, with opioids accounting for the majority of drug‑related deaths. Data suggest 2020 could be worse, an analysis released by the White House found that overdose deaths were up by 11.4% from January to April of 2019. Such deaths are avoidable in most cases; and

Whereas, for 2021, International Overdose Awareness Day’s theme is once again “Time to Remember. Time to Act.” Accordingly, this day should stimulate discussion in order to educate communities about overdose prevention and provide information on the range of support services and resources that exist in our communities; and

Whereas, in addition this day provides an opportunity for people to mourn publicly for loved ones, some for the first time, without feeling guilt or shame. It also sends a strong message to current and former drug users that they are valued; and

Whereas, in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day, the House urges the citizens of this great State to educate themselves about this important issue. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, declare, Tuesday, August 31, 2021, as Overdose Awareness Day in South Carolina and to express heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones to overdose.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑