



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Drug overdose impacts the lives of countless people in Minnesota and their communities, with fentanyl – a synthetic opioid 50 times more powerful than heroin – driving an overdose crisis that has devastated communities across the state; and
- WHEREAS: Stigma acts as a significant barrier to public health approaches to overdose prevention and recovery; and
- WHEREAS: Fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills are made to look identical to prescription medications. Fentanyl is involved in 91% of all opioid-involved deaths and 68% of all overdose deaths in Minnesota, constituting a growing threat to young people as counterfeit pills get illegally distributed via social media platforms and by dealers in our communities; and
- WHEREAS: Fentanyl-involved overdose deaths have more than tripled from 2019 to 2022 with many of these deaths tied to the increased availability of illicitly-manufactured fentanyl; and
- WHEREAS: The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has released a public safety alert due to data that shows seven out of every 10 pills seized by the DEA contain a lethal dose of fentanyl; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota is committed to supporting people wherever they are in their recovery journey and ensuring every person has access to the resources and support they need to achieve and sustain long-term recovery from substance use disorder; and
- WHEREAS: To bring attention to the opioid crisis, the I-35W St. Anthony Falls Bridge will be lit purple – the global color of addiction recovery – to remember those lost to fentanyl-involved overdose, show support for grieving families, and increase awareness about the risks of fentanyl and other illicit drugs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, August 21, 2024, as:

## FENTANYL AWARENESS AND PREVENTION DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August.

  
GOVERNOR

  
SECRETARY OF STATE