

State of Maine

Proclamation

Whereas, Chronic Pain and Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) are two of the nation's most serious health concerns and are both multifaceted health conditions impacting almost every single American, and often require multimodal and inter professional treatment; and

Whereas, Chronic Pain and SUDs afflict nearly every aspect of a person's life, impact the entire family, and, because their economic and social implications affect us all; and

Whereas, an estimated one in three Americans are affected, and a total of between 75 to 159 million Americans are experiencing some type of chronic pain on a daily basis; and

Whereas, presently, 20.2 million adults are living with SUDs, more than 90,000 Americans die from drugs and alcohol yearly, and between 25,000 and 30,000 Mainers want treatment but don't have access to it; and

Whereas, there are 23 million Americans living in long-term recovery, and according to results from the 1st annual Life in Recovery Survey, a shift from active use to active recovery is good for individuals, families, communities, and the nation's economy; and

Whereas, the Chronic Pain Support Group of Southern Maine has since 1993, provided a safe support for people with pain and has taught the coping skills necessary to survive; has worked with a multidisciplinary group of chronic pain advocates, comprised of students, staff, faculty, and community members along with healthcare professionals to improve the quality of life of people living in pain; and


Whereas, Penobscot Community Health care (PCHC) in combination with the University of New England, the University of Southern Maine, the US Pain Foundation, and chapters of Young People in Recovery seek to raise awareness regarding chronic pain and SUD's in the State of Maine, to empower individuals and reduce barriers to care by educating, advocating, and conducting research, while partnering with the community to improve the quality of life for those living with these conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL R. LEPAGE, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby recognize September, 2017 as

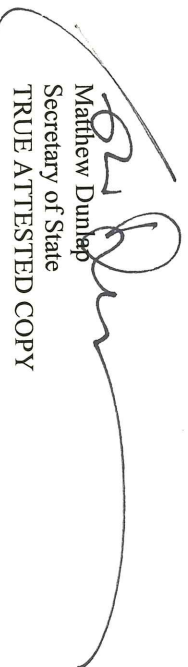
Pain Awareness & National Recovery Month

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

In testimony whereof, I have caused
the Great Seal of the State to be
herunto affixed GIVEN under my
hand at Augusta this Seventeenth
day of July Two Thousand Seventeen


Paul R. LePage
Governor




Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY