

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS, from diminished achievement in schools to greater risks on our roads and in our communities, to the heartache of lives cut tragically short by overdoses, the consequences of substance use are profound; and
- WHEREAS, studies show that the earlier in life a young person starts using alcohol or other drugs, the greater their lifetime risk of misuse or addiction; and
- WHEREAS, preventing alcohol and other drug use before it begins - particularly among young people - is the most cost-effective way to reduce substance use and its consequences; and
- WHEREAS, research has concluded that every dollar invested in school-based substance use prevention programs has the potential to save up to \$18 in costs related to substance use disorders; and
- WHEREAS, adult role models play an integral role in preventing youth substance use, and adults must lead by example, adopt positive behaviors, and have open conversations with youth about living substance-free; and
- WHEREAS, county alcohol and drug authorities, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, youth-serving organizations, community volunteers, faith communities, and schools provide programs and services to raise awareness about the risks and dangers of alcohol and drug use, treat the afflicted, and support prevention; and
- WHEREAS, local coalitions and community organizations across South Carolina strive to keep young people, families, and communities safe and reduce the consequences associated with substance use; and
- WHEREAS, October has been designated as National Substance Use Prevention Month to collectively focus on preventing substance use before it begins, as this is the most effective way to eliminate the damage caused by alcohol and other drugs.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2026 as

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to play a part in helping the next generation make choices that support physical, mental, behavioral, and emotional health.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry D. McMaster".

HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA