

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 355

Supporting the recognition and goals of Overdose Awareness Day in the  
United States.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the recognition and goals of Overdose Awareness  
Day in the United States.

Whereas more than 750,000 individuals in the United States  
have died from a drug overdose since 1999;

Whereas substance use disorders and drug overdoses affect  
all socioeconomic groups, racial and ethnic groups, geo-  
graphic regions, and ages;

Whereas substance use disorders are a chronic disease, and  
recognizing those disorders as such decreases stigma and  
acknowledges that substance use may be beyond the con-  
trol of an individual;

Whereas overdose deaths are preventable, and lives can be saved through awareness, prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support;

Whereas overdose deaths claimed more than 93,000 lives in the United States in 2020, and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic has contributed to the acceleration of overdose deaths;

Whereas communities across the United States have been pained by substance use disorders through the premature loss of lives and the stigma associated with drug-related fatalities; and

Whereas numerous States across the United States have lowered their State flags in recognition of Overdose Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) supports the recognition and goals of Over-  
3       dose Awareness Day in the United States; and

4               (2) encourages all Federal buildings in the  
5       United States to lower their flags to half-staff on  
6       August 31 of each year to support awareness of  
7       overdoses.

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