

*The Board of Supervisors of  
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

**Resolution No. 2018/87**

**Proclaiming March 2018 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month**

Whereas, drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of injury death in the United States and are highest among people aged 25 to 54 years; and

Whereas, most teenagers who abuse prescription opioid drugs get them for free from a friend or relative – but those at highest risk of overdose are as likely to get them from a doctor's prescription; and

Whereas, in 2016, in Contra Costa County there were 762,114 prescriptions given to patients for opioids which is an age-adjusted rate of 594.6 prescriptions per 1,000 residents which is higher than the state rate of 562.34; and

Whereas, among the more than 64,000 drug overdose deaths estimated nationally in 2016, the sharpest increase occurred among deaths related to fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (synthetic opioids) with over 20,000 overdose deaths; and

Whereas, in 2016, 42,249 Americans died from opioid overdoses, an average of 116 people every day and in 2016, 51 Contra Costa County residents died from an opioid overdose; and

Whereas, as many as 1 in 4 people who receive prescription opioids long term for non-cancer pain in primary care settings struggles with opioid addiction; and

Whereas, each day, more than 1,000 people are treated in emergency departments for not using prescription opioids as directed; and

Whereas, in 2016 it is estimated that America's opioid epidemic exacted at least \$504 billion in economic costs related to health care, crime and lost work productivity; and

Whereas, Americans that have participated in DEA's fourteen National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days have turned in more than 4,508 tons of medication over the past eight years at take-back sites available in all 50 states and U.S. territories, and in Contra Costa County, during the October 2017 DEA sponsored Take-Back Day, 1,628.2lbs of unwanted or unused prescription medication were removed; and

Whereas, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors supports April 28, 2018 as "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day" as declared by the DEA and encourages residents to locate their local collection site and safely dispose of their accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs; and

Whereas, the Contra Costa Medication Education and Disposal Safety (MEDS) Coalition engages youth and adults, schools, businesses, faith-based communities, law enforcement, medical professionals and local and county government officials to participate in Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities to raise awareness

about prescription drug dangers, promote safe medication storage and disposal and ensure Naloxone is available for those at high risk of overdose.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare March 2018 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month in Contra Costa County, and encourages all citizens to participate in prescription drug related prevention programs and activities; Be it further resolved that the County Board of Supervisors encourages all community members to pledge, “Spread the Word... One Pill Can Kill”.

**KAREN MITCHOFF**  
Chair, District IV Supervisor

**JOHN GIOIA**  
District I Supervisor

**CANDACE ANDERSEN**  
District II Supervisor

**DIANE BURGIS**  
District III Supervisor

**FEDERAL D. GLOVER**  
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an  
action taken  
and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on  
the date  
shown.

ATTESTED: March 13, 2018

David J. Twa,

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy