



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

For many Texans, drug and alcohol abuse are barriers to successful and productive lives. Drug courts help provide a way out of this cycle by providing non-violent offenders stern intervention, intensive supervision, focused treatment and rehabilitation. Through these court programs, individuals who would otherwise find themselves in jail or unable to access resources are able to address underlying issues which can lead to a cycle of addiction and crime.

The Lone Star State has become a leader in the creation of adult drug court treatment programs and is one of the states with the largest number of drug courts in the country. These courts provide an alternative to incarceration. Our goal is to avoid imprisoning Texans unnecessarily for crimes caused by or related to drug dependence and to help guide them toward a more productive and promising pathway.

Drug courts also have a positive impact on our society as a whole. According to a study by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, drug courts can reduce recidivism by as much as 26 percent and provide an average of \$2.21 in direct savings for every dollar invested. The savings are a result of fewer costs to the criminal justice system, as well as a reduced need for foster care, health care and other services. Just as the costs of criminal behavior create a ripple effect, so does the rehabilitation and recovery of an individual.

Each May, drug court advocates and public health and safety professionals celebrate the promise of recovery and restored hope to drug court graduates and their families.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about drug courts and how they can improve our communities. By committing to intelligent strategies to fight substance abuse, we can all work toward a more peaceful and prosperous Texas.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 2017 to be

Drug Court Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
12th day of April, 2017.

A handwritten signature of Greg Abbott in black ink, written over a horizontal line.
Governor of Texas