



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** October is Substance Use Prevention Month, promoting prevention efforts and demonstrating commitment to healthy and drug-free lifestyles; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health in 2019, 20.4 million people aged 12 and older had a substance use disorder the previous year, and from those, only 2.5% received any substance abuse treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2019 Williamson County Community Health Assessment reported that 22.2% of adults in Williamson County reported excessive drinking compared with 18% nationwide, which indicates that substance use disorders should be a primary concern county-wide; and
- WHEREAS,** Research shows that drug addiction is preventable and treatable. According to Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, for each dollar invested in an evidence-based prevention program, there can be a reduced cost between \$2 and \$20 in treatment and other health related expenses; and
- WHEREAS,** Since 1978, LifeSteps has been working in Williamson County to improve our community's health, safety, and well-being by preventing substance use disorders and supporting long-term recovery; and
- WHEREAS,** LifeSteps Substance Use Prevention Coalition knows that prevention goes beyond "Just Say No" slogans and knowledge of the negative affects of drugs; they work to engage, inform and empower the community to prevent substance use and remove or minimize risk conditions by changing social norms, and investing in wellness and in the community where you live, work, and play; and
- WHEREAS,** #iLiveRed, a campaign launched by the LifeSteps Coalition that encourages Resilient, Empowered, and Drug-free lives, seeks to raise awareness of addiction and promote positive drug-free messages that will engage Williamson County citizens in leading healthier lifestyles; and
- WHEREAS,** Organizations such as the Drug Enforcement Administration – Austin, the Joint Counterdrug Task Force, and LifeSteps Coalition partners are collaborating to promote #iLiveRed activities to raise a commitment to a healthy and drug-free lifestyle; and
- WHEREAS,** no one with a drug addiction should be held up for derision and scorn, but should be met with love, understanding, and support for recovery;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Williamson County Commissioners Court supports LifeSteps Council on Alcohol and Drugs and hereby proclaim October 2020 as Substance Use Prevention Month and encourages its citizens to engage in prevention efforts that promote positive lifestyle changes.

Signed on this date: _____

Bill Gravell, County Judge

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court