



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** October is Substance Abuse Prevention Month, when the focus promotes prevention efforts and demonstrates commitment to healthy and drug-free lifestyles; and
- WHEREAS,** Addiction is one of the most rapidly growing epidemics, in which millions of people aged 12 or older have had a substance use disorder related to their use of alcohol and other drugs; and
- WHEREAS,** Only 1.4 percent of people aged 12 or older received any substance use treatment last year; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2019 Williamson County Community Health Assessment reports that 22.2% of adults in Williamson County reported excessively drinking compare with 18% nationwide, which indicates that substance use disorders should be a primary concern county-wide.
- 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 Abuse Prevention Coalition works to engage, inform, and empower the community to prevent and reduce substance abuse and other behavioral health disorders among youth; and
- WHEREAS,** #iLiveRed, a campaign launched by the LifeSteps Coalition that encourages **R**esilient, **E**mpowered, and **D**rug-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 Williamson County and Cities Health District, the Drug Enforcement Administration – Austin, the Joint Counterdrug Task Force, and LifeSteps Coalition partners are collaborating to promote Red Ribbon Week activities to raise a commitment to a healthy and drug-free lifestyle;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court supports LifeSteps Council on Alcohol and Drugs and hereby proclaim October 2019 as Substance Abuse Prevention Month and October 24 -31 as Red Ribbon Week and encourages its citizen to engage in prevention efforts that promote positive lifestyle changes.

Signed on this date: October 15, 2019

Bill Gravell

Bill Gravell, County Judge

Terry Cook

Terry Cook, Commissioner Precinct 1

Cynthia Long

Cynthia Long, Commissioner Precinct 2

Valerie Covey

Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct 3

Russ Boles

Russ Boles, Commissioner Precinct 4