

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 17, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

This month, we will observe International Overdose Awareness Day, which is held in remembrance of the lives lost due to the disease of addiction. This crisis has claimed over 70,000 lives just last year and has shown no indication of declining. In light of the rising overdose deaths taking place across our country, we write to respectfully request that you order flags to be flown at half-staff on all public buildings on August 31st, International Overdose Awareness Day.

The addiction crisis has affected countless families and communities across the United States. Over the past two decades alone, our nation has lost over 700,000 American lives from drug overdoses. And according to newly released data from July of this year, more than thirty states have reported distressing spikes in overdose deaths over the past few months.¹ We are far from claiming victory in this epidemic, which has only been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

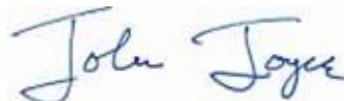
Our nation has mourned the loss of lives during the coronavirus pandemic by lowering flags to half-staff when we reached the grave death toll of 100,000. The lowering of our flags served as a necessary and national expression of grief. Those deaths due to COVID-19 left behind an absence in the hearts of all who knew and loved someone who passed. We are grateful for your Administration's work in acknowledging these crises and believe that your order to lower flags at half-staff on International Overdose Awareness Day would be the appropriate expression in acknowledging the lives lost to addiction.

Thank you for your consideration of this serious request.

Sincerely,



LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress



JOHN JOYCE
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm?source=email>

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Member of Congress

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