

County of Buncombe

Proclamation

National Public Health Week

Whereas the week of April 3, 2023, is National Public Health Week;

Whereas the theme for National Public Health Week in 2023 is “Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health”;

Whereas the goal of National Public Health Week in 2023 is to recognize the contributions of public health in—

(1) improving the health of the people of the United States; and

(2) achieving health equity;

Whereas many of the leading causes of death for individuals in the United States result from chronic conditions, which are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health challenges;

Whereas there are significant differences in the health status of individuals living in the healthiest States and those living in the least healthy States, including differences in obesity rates, the prevalence of chronic disease, and the prevalence of infectious disease;

Whereas racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States continue to experience disparities in the burden of illness and death, as compared with the entire population of the United States;

Whereas women die from pregnancy-related complications in the United States at a higher rate than in many other developed countries, and an estimated 80 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable;

Whereas Black mothers experience a maternal mortality rate 3 times higher than White mothers in the United States;

Whereas there were an estimated 101,758 drug overdose deaths in the United States during the 12-month period ending in October 2022.

Whereas studies show that strategic investments in disease prevention can result in significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas vaccination is one of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases;

Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and recover from the impact of health threats, including disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic; and natural disasters and disasters caused by human activity;

Whereas public health professionals collaborate with partners outside of the health sector, including sectors that design our built environment, educational systems, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors influence health outcomes;

Whereas in communities across the United States, individuals are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, increasing physical activity, and preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace; and

Whereas efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can promote a health system focused on treating illness to a health system focused on promoting wellness;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Buncombe County Commissioners—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week;

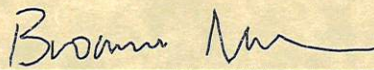
(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals at every level of government and the community organizations and individuals in Buncombe County, working to prevent disease and injury;

(3) recognizes the role of public health in preventing and responding to infectious disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic as well as mitigating short-term and long-term impacts of infectious disease outbreaks on the health and wellness of individuals and families;

(4) recognizes that public health is key in addressing social and other determinants of health, including health disparities experienced by minority populations; and

(5) encourages increased efforts and resources to strengthen the public health system and workforce in the United States; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health across the United States.



Brownie Newman

Chairman, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners