



Torrance County
Board of County Commissioners

PROCLAIMING APRIL AS “ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH”

WHEREAS, addiction is a major public health concern; and

WHEREAS, over 67,000 people die by drug overdose each year in the United States; New Mexico had the 11th highest drug overdose death rate in the United States in 2020; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, 1,878 New Mexicans died from excessive alcohol related causes, and of those, 112 involved alcohol poisoning; and

WHEREAS, alcohol abuse costs the State of New Mexico more than \$2 billion a year; with around two million people in the State of New Mexico, it adds up to more than \$1,000 in costs per New Mexican each year; and

WHEREAS, 16.7% of adults in New Mexico report binge drinking, which is four to five more drinks for women and five or more for men on one occasion in the past 30 days; New Mexico has a high percentage of heavy drinkers, with eight or more drinks per week for women and 15 or more for men; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has the highest alcohol-related death rate in the United States; New Mexico sits at 86.6 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to 41.5 nationally in 2020; alcohol kills New Mexicans at a higher rate than anywhere in the United States and that statistic has not changed since 1997; and

WHEREAS, a New Mexico Department of Health study shows alcohol abuse killed more than 1,800 New Mexicans under age 65 in 2020, which means more people died from alcohol abuse than from COVID in the first year of the pandemic; one in five New Mexicans die every day from alcohol use; and

WHEREAS, a state Department of Health study estimated in 2018, the latest year for which figures are available, that 101,012 New Mexicans were living with an alcohol abuse disorder, with 73,178 unable to get treatment mostly due to cost; and

WHEREAS, the risk of adverse outcomes, such as overdose death and addiction, increases from combined use of drugs and alcohol; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks as one of the weakest states regarding alcohol policy safeguards; it was among the states that had the least amount of improvement since the early 1990s; and

WHEREAS, strong alcohol policy safeguards, such as limiting where, when, and how alcohol is sold, in addition to preserving government oversight of alcohol sales, can contribute to lower excessive drinking rates among New Mexicans and can help to reduce alcohol-involved drug overdoses; and

WHEREAS, we resolve as a community to continue to support those struggling with substance use disorders, that they enter into and participate in treatment; we further support strong alcohol policy safeguards to encourage their recovery.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Board of County Commissioners of Torrance County, New Mexico, do hereby proclaim the month of April, as **ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH** in **TORRANCE COUNTY** and call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

*Signed and Sealed in the Torrance County Seat,
Estancia, New Mexico,
on April 10, 2024.*



A blue ink signature of Ryan Schwebach, written in a cursive style.

Ryan Schwebach, Chair
District 2

Excused

Kevin McCall, Vice Chair
District 1

A blue ink signature of Linda Jaramillo, written in a cursive style.

Linda Jaramillo, Torrance County Clerk

A blue ink signature of Samuel D. Schropp, written in a cursive style.

Samuel D. Schropp, Member
District 3

