

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- WHEREAS:** Alcohol is the leading cause of death among youths, and contributes substantially to adolescent motor vehicle crashes, other traumatic injuries, suicide, and family and school problems, two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students, and is a major factor in unprotected sex among youth, increasing their risk of contracting HIV or other transmitted diseases; and
- WHEREAS:** The brain goes through dynamic change during adolescence and alcohol can seriously damage long- and short-term growth processes; and
- WHEREAS:** The younger a person is when they start to drink, the more likely they are to become alcoholic, and alcohol is the most frequently used drug by high-school and middle school students in Oregon; and
- WHEREAS:** Adolescent drinkers perform worse in school, are more likely to fall behind and have an increased risk of social problems, depression, suicidal thoughts and violence; and
- WHEREAS:** More than 23 percent of Oregon eighth graders and over 38 percent of Oregon 11th graders reported regular alcohol use last year, and nearly 38,000 youth in Oregon have a serious alcohol problem; and
- WHEREAS:** Young people in Oregon who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21.

NOW,
THEREFORE: I, Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **April 2010** to be

ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

In Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, March 31, 2010.



Theodore R. Kulongoski
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Kate Brown
Kate Brown, Secretary of State