

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency first recognized National Fentanyl Awareness Day in 2022, highlighting the need for increased awareness and action against illegally made fentanyl, a dangerous synthetic opioid.

WHEREAS, the observance was founded by parents who have tragically lost loved ones to the drug overdose crisis and wanted to sound the alarm on this critical public health crisis.

WHEREAS, fentanyl is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, and even a small amount can cause fatal overdoses, making it one of the leading causes of drug-related deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the rise in counterfeit pills containing traces of illicitly manufactured fentanyl has heightened the risk of accidental overdoses, particularly among young people who may be unaware of the dangers posed by these substances; and

WHEREAS, fentanyl and counterfeit pill education are now required in all Oregon middle and high schools. However, addressing the fentanyl crisis requires a community-wide effort, including families, friends, and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, National Fentanyl Awareness Day serves as a vital opportunity to honor the lives lost to fentanyl-related overdoses, support those struggling with addiction, and reaffirm our commitment to prevention, treatment & recovery, and enforcement efforts; and

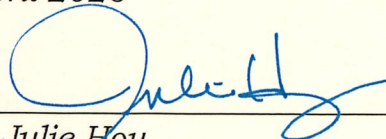
WHEREAS, this day also calls upon all levels of government, healthcare providers, educators, community organizations, and individuals to work together to address this epidemic through increased access to resources, education, and harm intervention strategies such as naloxone;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Julie Hoy, Mayor of the City of Salem, do hereby proclaim April 29, 2026, as

National Fentanyl Awareness Day

I urge all citizens to join in raising awareness about the dangers of fentanyl, supporting those affected by this crisis, and taking action to prevent further loss of life.

DATED this twenty-seventh day of April 2026



Julie Hoy
Mayor

