

Presented by: Assemblymember
Wheeler
Introduced: 04/02/2001
Drafted by: J.R. Corso

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2091

A Resolution Supporting Adoption by the Alaska Legislature of Inhalant Abuse Legislation.

WHEREAS, a national survey of 45,000 teenagers has found that for students after the eighth grade, inhalant abuse is the fourth most common intoxicant, ranking after alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana, and

WHEREAS, the percentage of youths who use marijuana increases as they age, from 16% of eighth graders to 38% of twelfth graders, and

WHEREAS the pattern is reversed for inhalants, which are used by 10% of eighth graders but only 6% of twelfth graders, making inhalants the only class of drugs which younger children are using more heavily than older ones, and

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control reports that 27% of troubled youth abuse inhalants, and more than half of these do so at least once a month, and

WHEREAS, inhalants are abused by Juneau youths in all cultural and economic groups, and

WHEREAS, the compounds inhaled by these children include cooking spray, disinfectants, furniture polish and wax, hair spray, nail polish remover, oven cleaner, spray deodorant, butane, gasoline, glues and adhesives, paint and paint thinner and rust remover, and

WHEREAS, ingestion of these chemicals can dissolve fatty tissues, arrest breathing, cause cardiac seizure and irreversibly damage the brain, liver, kidneys, and other organs, and

WHEREAS, the risk of sudden death, known as “sudden sniffing death” or SSD is particularly acute with this form of substance abuse, and

WHEREAS, prevention of inhalant abuse requires involved parents, alert educators, and a society that shows its children there is more to life than getting by and getting high, and

WHEREAS, legislative action is an essential part of the solution, with at least 37 states having enacted legislation to address the problem of inhalant abuse, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature is considering adoption of inhalant abuse legislation, presently before the House as HB 114, and

WHEREAS, the Assembly proposes to defer action on any municipal inhalant policy until the legislature has exercised its leadership on this issue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly endorses HB 114 and respectfully urges the Alaska Legislature to enact it and the Governor of Alaska to enforce it in a manner that will preserve for municipalities an opportunity to implement solutions for local aspects of the inhalant abuse problem.

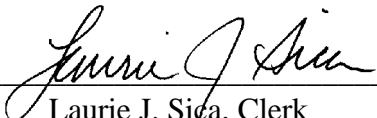
Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 2nd day of April, 2001.



Sally Smith, Mayor

Attest:



Laurie J. Sica, Clerk