

# STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2003

Source  
HCR 8

Legislative  
Resolve No.  
5



Requesting the Governor to declare March 16 - 22, 2003, to be Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week.

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## **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**WHEREAS** all communities should be made aware of the potential harm of poisons and inhalants because poisons and the improper use of inhalants pose an ever-present danger to Alaska, its communities, and its people; and

**WHEREAS**, while legal and helpful when properly used and administered, these substances can be disabling and even fatal when misused; and

**WHEREAS** statistics indicate that a significant percentage of elementary school age children as well as adolescents and adults have experimented with or are likely to experiment with inhalants; that more than 70 percent of chronic substance abusers began with inhalants, which are the fourth most used addictive substance after tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana; that inhalants often lead to the use of other illegal drugs; that chronic inhalant abusers suffer permanent and severe brain damage; that other risks include heart failure, loss of consciousness, and irreversible damage to the liver, kidneys, and bone marrow; and that more

than 1,400 legal products can be inhaled to "get high"; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, more than 1,800,000 people suffer from ingestion of or exposure to household poisons; most often, it is children under the age of six who experience the effects of accidental poison exposure, and, in most cases, common household items including aspirin, cough and cold remedies, perfumes, and cleaning products are the source of the poison; and

**WHEREAS** inhalants and poisons pose a threat to the well-being of the citizens of the state; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska is taking a leading role in developing inhalant treatment protocols and encouraging inhalant prevention efforts through the Annual Inhalant Prevention Conference and the establishment of a statewide inhalant intervention program, and the Tundra Swan Inhalant Treatment Center in Bethel, Alaska;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages support of the cooperative efforts of the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition and other local, state, and federal organizations and communities that are working together to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse by their efforts to make others aware of the dangers of inhalants and poisons; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to proclaim the week of March 16 - 22, 2003, as Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week to coincide with the National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests and encourages all public and private agencies and citizens of the state to observe and recognize Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week with appropriate activities, including using every means available to inform the children and families of Alaska about the dangers of inhalants and poisons.