

**CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6(HES) am**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Amended: 3/14/01

Offered: 2/28/01

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KAPSNER, Dyson, Morgan, Murkowski, Hudson, McGuire

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Requesting the Governor to declare March 18 - 24, 2001, to be Inhalants and Poisons**  
2 **Awareness Week and August 26 - September 1, 2001, to be Inhalant Awareness Week.**

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

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

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

9 **WHEREAS** statistics indicate that a significant percentage of elementary school age  
10 children as well as adolescents and adults have experimented with or are likely to experiment  
11 with inhalants; that more than 70 percent of chronic substance abusers began with inhalants,  
12 which are the fourth most used addictive substance after tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana; that  
13 inhalants often lead to the use of marijuana, crack cocaine, and other illegal drugs; that  
14 chronic inhalant abusers suffer permanent and severe brain damage; that other risks include  
15 heart failure, loss of consciousness, and irreversible damage to the liver, kidneys, and bone  
16 marrow; and that more than 1,400 legal products can be inhaled to "get high"; and

1           **WHEREAS**, each year, more than 1.8 million people suffer from ingestion of or  
2 exposure to household poisons; most often, it is children under the age of six who experience  
3 the effects of accidental poison exposure, and, in most cases, common household items  
4 including aspirin, cough and cold remedies, perfumes, and cleaning products are the source of  
5 the poison; and

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

8           **WHEREAS** Alaska is taking a leading role in developing inhalant treatment protocols  
9 and encouraging inhalant prevention efforts through the Annual Inhalant Prevention  
10 Conference and the establishment of a statewide inhalant intervention program, with a  
11 residential treatment program opening in Bethel, Alaska, in August 2001;

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

17           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the  
18 Governor to proclaim the week of March 18 - 24, 2001, as Inhalants and Poisons Awareness  
19 Week to coincide with the National Inhalant and Poison Awareness Week and also to  
20 proclaim the week of August 26 - September 1, 2001, as Inhalant Awareness Week to  
21 coincide with the Fourth Annual Inhalant Prevention Conference and the grand opening of the  
22 Statewide Residential Inhalant Treatment Program; and be it

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