

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS HOFFMAN, Ellis

Introduced: 2/27/01
Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the Governor to declare March 18 - 24, 2001, to be Inhalants and Poisons**
2 **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;

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

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully
13 requests the Governor to proclaim the week of March 18 - 24, 2001, as Inhalants and Poisons
14 Awareness Week; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests and
16 encourages all public and private agencies and citizens of the state to observe and recognize
17 Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week with appropriate activities.