

BY BINKLEY, PEARCE, KELLY,  
SZYMANSKI, ADAMS, DUNCAN AND  
ZHAROFF

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to inhalant abuse.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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WHEREAS substance abuse by Alaskan teenagers is among the highest in  
8 the nation and rising at a time when other states are seeing a decrease in  
9 substance abuse by their teenagers; and

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WHEREAS, according to a recent report published by the University of  
11 Alaska Anchorage, inhalant abuse in Alaska has increased 9.4 percent since  
12 1983, the largest increase of all illicit chemical substances; and

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WHEREAS inhalant abuse is hard to control because the substances that  
14 can be abused are very common and are found in most household products,  
15 including fingernail polish remover, typewriter correcting fluid, nonstick  
16 cooking oil and other aerosol sprays such as hairspray and deodorants,  
17 lighter fluids, and gasoline; and

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WHEREAS inhalants tend to be used by young children because they are  
19 so readily available and cheap, creating an inverse relationship between  
20 the age of the abuser and the frequency with which abuse occurs; and

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WHEREAS chronic use of some inhalants has been found to cause damage  
22 to the brain, liver, kidneys, heart, nervous system, blood and bone marrow,  
23 and, depending on the type of inhalant, this damage may not be reversible;  
24 and

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WHEREAS toluene, the solvent found in paint thinners, commercial  
26 cleaners, and gasoline, which may be the most commonly abused substance in  
27 Alaska, has been shown to cause irreversible brain damage; and

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WHEREAS the damage caused by inhalant abuse, the warning signs of  
29 abuse, where to go for help, and the availability of nontoxic alternatives

1 to replace some products that are frequently abused are not well known in  
2 the state;

3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is  
4 respectfully requested to direct the Department of Health and Social Ser-  
5 vices and the Department of Education to work together to assist the office  
6 of alcoholism and drug abuse to act as a clearinghouse for concerned citi-  
7 zens, organizations, communities, and school districts with respect to  
8 information on inhalant abuse and what can be done to stop or prevent it;  
9 and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is also respectfully requested to  
11 direct the Department of Health and Social Services to include in its drug  
12 and alcohol abuse advertising and educational programs information on  
13 inhalant abuse; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that information regarding nontoxic office products  
15 should be provided to the purchasing agent for every stage agency, includ-  
16 ing the legislature and the court system, and that these agencies should,  
17 whenever possible, purchase the nontoxic brands rather than those that  
18 contain toxic substances.

19 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Myra M.  
20 Munson, commissioner of health and social services; the Honorable William  
21 G. Demmert, commissioner of education; each purchasing officer in the  
22 executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government; the  
23 members of the Alaska State Board of Education; and to the superintendent  
24 of each of the 55 school districts in Alaska.