

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE SUPPORTING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO EMPLOY AT LEAST ONE FULL-TIME SUBSTANCE AWARENESS COORDINATOR FOR EACH CHILD STUDY TEAM EMPLOYED BY THE BOARD (6/08)**

**WHEREAS**, the youthful use of mind-altering substances is a pervasive and critical public health problem, an epidemic by any public health standard.

**WHEREAS**, the use of these substances by young people results in violence, traffic crashes, high risk sex, criminal behavior, injury, medical care, work loss, pain and suffering, poisoning, psychosis, fetal alcohol syndrome and youth suicide.

**WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey currently requires that every school district provide instructional programs on drugs, alcohol, anabolic steroids, tobacco and other controlled dangerous substances, intervention and referral services, education to parents and outreach in the community as well as instructions for confidentiality (NJS 18A40A).

**WHEREAS**, Intervention and Referral Team Services are mandated in NJAC 6A:16-7, Substance Awareness Coordinators are not required to implement programs in all districts.

**WHEREAS**, Research conducted by The University of Illinois Center for Prevention Research and Development,<sup>1</sup> The Pennsylvania Study of Crime and Delinquency<sup>2</sup> and The Vermont Department of Education,<sup>3</sup> have found that Substance Awareness Coordinators in these prevention programs have been scientifically proven to be necessary and effective in the prevention and intervention of substance abuse issues of students.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse supports legislation that requires that local boards of education employ at least one full-time Substance Awareness Coordinator for each child study team employed by the board.

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Prevention Research and Development (2005) *Background Research: Student Assistance Program*. Champaign, IL. Center for Prevention Research and Development Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

<sup>2</sup> Fertman, C. & Schlesinger, J. (2000, October) *Student Assistance Program in Pennsylvania evaluation final report. Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency*.

<sup>3</sup> Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs. *The Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 2001. Burlington, VT.