



Inhalant Awareness

Whereas: Inhalant Abuse is three times more prevalent in Alaska, and

Whereas: Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome (SSD) can occur in anyone of any age, at any time during one's abuse, including the first time, and

Whereas: Each year, hundreds of children die from Inhalant use, yet many parents and educators remain ignorant of this silent epidemic; and

Whereas: Over 1400 products are used for inhaling, these products are easily available, free or inexpensive, and legal; and

Whereas: Currently there are no laws prohibiting inhaling; therefore

Be it resolved: Alaska PTA supports educating not only children, parents and educators about inhalants but community members as well, and

Be it resolved: Alaska PTA supports legislation to make inhaling illegal and provide treatment for offenders.

Rationale: One of the Objects of PTA is to promote the welfare of children and youth. The young people of Alaska are our most valuable resource, and their health, education and well-being are the most important responsibility of families, teachers and community members. The **Alaska PTA** believes that the most effective way to fight inhalant use is by educating parents, children, teachers, and community members about the dangers of many commonly used products and the warning signs of abuse.¹

¹ Approved at the Alaska PTA Convention 5/2/2003