

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 510

WHEREAS, Substance abuse is a major problem in our society, as the number of Americans abusing drugs is alarming; and

WHEREAS, The staggering costs of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse in terms of human suffering and monetary loss affects all of us, and only through a concerted effort by parents, schools, private institutions, and governmental bodies can the growing number of alcohol and drug abusers be reversed; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, the total economic cost associated with alcohol and drug abuse in Texas was estimated at \$25.9 billion; the 2003 total economic cost associated with tobacco use was \$5.833 billion, including \$1.265 billion in Medicaid costs, \$4.552 billion in overall health-care costs, and \$9.89 million in costs due to fires; and

WHEREAS, It has been reported that 71 percent of Texas students in grades 7 through 12 use alcohol, and that 26 percent of the students who drink are considered binge drinkers; 16 percent of Texas middle school students and 33 percent of Texas high school students are regular smokers, and 21 percent of those students began smoking prior to the age of 13; and

WHEREAS, The use of alcohol and drugs can lead to deadly diseases; their use has been closely linked to the occurrence of sexually transmitted diseases, as well as to unwanted pregnancies, fetal deaths, birth defects, and mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, more than 13,500 Texans died from alcohol and drug abuse, and 46 percent of them were younger than 25; 480,000 Texas youths who are smokers will die prematurely from smoking-related problems; and

WHEREAS, National data indicates parental substance abuse contributes to seven out of 10 cases of child abuse and neglect and three-quarters of all foster care placements; and

WHEREAS, People with substance abuse problems crowd our jails and prisons; crime related to substance abuse cost Texas \$4 billion in 2000 and accounted for about 48 percent of the total expenditures in the state's criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, while alcohol advertising and efforts to legalize drug use have become more pronounced, funding for prevention programs has been substantially reduced; and

WHEREAS, Prevention programs have been shown to be the least expensive and most effective approach in dealing with these critical social problems; and

WHEREAS, A renewed commitment by all Texans is necessary to reverse the ever-increasing use of addictive drugs among our

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citizens, and the use of successful prevention programs should be encouraged and supported; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby recognize March 31, 2005, as Substance Abuse Prevention Day in an effort to encourage our citizens to continue their efforts to eradicate the abuse of drugs in our society.

Nelson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 31, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate