



SPONSOR: Sen. Hansen & Rep. Minor-Brown & Sen. Poore &
Rep. Longhurst & Rep. Dorsey Walker
Sens. Hocker, Hoffner, Pettyjohn, Townsend; Reps.
Baumbach, Morrison, Osienski, K. Williams

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49

RECOGNIZING MAY 7-13, 2023, AS "YOUTH HEALTH AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK" IN THE
STATE OF DELAWARE.

- 1 WHEREAS, substance use disorder and mental health problems affect all communities nationwide; and
- 2 WHEREAS, according to the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 61.2 million Americans
- 3 aged 12 and older used illicit drugs in the past year; and
- 4 WHEREAS, nearly six million young people (aged 12 to 20) reported underage drinking alcohol in the past month
- 5 and 22% of Americans (74 million people) aged 12 and older used tobacco products or an e-cigarette or other vaping device
- 6 to vape nicotine in the past month; and
- 7 WHEREAS, early drug use adversely impacts young people by putting them at risk for developing substance use
- 8 disorders and mental health challenges into adulthood; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health done by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health
- 10 Services Administration (SAMHSA) reported that in 2019-2020, past month illicit drug use for 12 to 17-year-olds in
- 11 Delaware was 6.7% and 7.71% nationally; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the second leading cause of unintentional injury deaths in those aged 15-24 is accidental poisoning;
- 13 and
- 14 WHEREAS, in Delaware, 6.22% of all 12 to 17 year-olds meet the criteria for illicit drug use disorder and 3.11%
- 15 in that same age group meet the criteria for alcohol use disorder in the last year; and
- 16 WHEREAS, the impact of mental health and substance use disorders is apparent in our local communities; and
- 17 WHEREAS, with commitment, support, and collaboration from federal, state, and local entities, substance use and
- 18 mental health disorders can be prevented or lessened; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has sponsored National
- 20 Prevention Week annually with a focus on changing the prevention landscape by providing evidence-based and accessible
- 21 resources to facilitate collective action and story-sharing; and
- 22 WHEREAS, prevention has been at the core of health and wellness in Delaware; and

23 WHEREAS, organizations like the Delaware Prevention Partners work in collaboration with state agencies and
24 community organizations to engage youth with prevention programming and resources early on; and

25 WHEREAS, on May 9th, 2023, thirty high school students representing schools in all three counties participated in
26 a forum with Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, members of the Behavioral Health Consortium, and policy makers to share
27 ideas and bring solutions and recommendations to address important substance abuse and mental health issues.

28 NOW, THEREFORE:

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
30 Representatives concurring therein, that May 7-13, 2023, shall be known as “Youth Health Awareness and Prevention
31 Week” in Delaware, encouraging State agencies and community organizations to spread awareness, share evidence-based
32 prevention programming and resources, and engage youth in age-appropriate supports.

SYNOPSIS

This concurrent resolution designates May 7-13, 2023, as "Youth Health Awareness and Prevention Week" in the State of Delaware.

Author: Senator Hansen