



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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 152<sup>nd</sup> 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