



SPONSOR: Rep. Chukwuocha & Rep. Heffernan &
Rep. Dorsey Walker & Sen. Gay
Reps. K. Johnson, Morrison, Parker Selby, Harris,
S. Moore, Neal, Postles; Sens. Sokola, Hansen, Hoffner,
Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 131

RECOGNIZING MAY 15, 2024, AS YOUTH PREVENTION DAY IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, substance misuse 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 ages 12 and older used illicit drugs in the past year; and

4 WHEREAS, nearly 6 million young people (aged 12 to 20) reported drinking alcohol in the past month and 22%
5 of Americans (74 million people) aged 12 and older used tobacco products or an e-cigarette or other vaping device to vape
6 nicotine in the past month; and

7 WHEREAS, early drug misuse correlates with early life substance use disorders, stunting development and often
8 persisting into the adult years; and,

9 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics, approximately 21.3% of 8th graders have
10 tried illicit drugs at least once and by the time they are in the 12th grade, 46.6% of teens have tried illicit drugs; and

11 WHEREAS, 11.2% of overdose deaths nationwide are from those aged 15 to 24 years; and

12 WHEREAS, in Delaware, 6.22% of all 12- to 17-year-olds met the criteria for illicit drug use disorder and 3.11%
13 in that same age group met the criteria for alcohol use disorder in the last year; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2019, 36.5% of U.S. high school students reported that they currently use a tobacco product and
15 27.5% reported using e-cigarettes, and in Delaware, 19.4% of high school students report using a tobacco product and
16 13.6% report using an e-cigarette; and

17 WHEREAS, the impact of mental health and substance use disorders is apparent in our local communities; and

18 WHEREAS, with commitment, support, and collaboration from federal, state, and local entities, substance use,
19 and mental health disorders can be prevented or lessened; and

20 WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has sponsored National
21 Prevention Week annually with a focus on changing the prevention landscape by providing evidence-based and accessible
22 resources to facilitate collective action and story-sharing; and

23 WHEREAS, prevention has been at the core of health and wellness in Delaware; and

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

26 WHEREAS, on May 15, 2024, thirty high school students representing schools in all three counties participated in
27 a forum with the Lt. Governor, members of the Behavioral Health Consortium, and policymakers to share ideas and bring
28 solutions and recommendations to address important substance abuse and mental health issues.

29 NOW, THEREFORE:

30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
31 Senate concurring therein, that May 15, 2024, shall be known as Youth Prevention Day in Delaware, encouraging state
32 agencies and community organizations to spread awareness, share evidence-based prevention programming and resources,
33 and engage youth in age-appropriate supports.

SYNOPSIS

This House Concurrent Resolution designates May 15, 2024, as Youth Prevention Day in the state of Delaware.