

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

WHEREAS, Use of prescription drugs in a manner other than that prescribed by a qualified physician can be damaging to the mental, physical, and social health of the user; and

WHEREAS, Use of illicit drugs can be damaging to the mental, physical, and social health of the user; and

WHEREAS, A variety of substances, including but not limited to glues, propellants, certain herbs, tobacco, alcohol, over-the-counter medications, and other common household chemicals can be obtained legally, and are frequently abused as stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, and more; and

WHEREAS, Abuse of the aforementioned substances can be damaging to the mental, physical, and social health of the user; and

WHEREAS, The incidence of substance abuse—be it prescription, illicit, or legal—is continually on the rise among children and adults;

WHEREAS, Substance abuse can destroy the lives of individuals and their families and friends, and is a major contributor to the breakdown of communities and society in general; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Utah PTA supports legislative action that promotes education or cessation programs regarding substance abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA supports legislative action that institutes or appropriately increases criminal penalties for individuals or organizations promoting substance abuse of any kind (including the sale or distribution of alcohol and/or tobacco to underage persons); and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA supports the age-appropriate education of all children and families regarding the dangers and consequences of substance abuse.

Documentation:

“Alcohol’s Damaging Effects on the Brain”, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Institutes of Health: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Alcohol Alert, No. 63, October 2004. <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/aa63/aa63.htm>

“High School & Youth Trends”, NIDA InfoFacts, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Institutes of Health: National Institute on Drug Abuse, December 2006. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/pdf/infofacts/HSYouthTrends09.pdf>

“Marijuana”, NIDA InfoFacts, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Institutes of Health: National Institute on Drug Abuse, April 2006.

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/PDF/InfoFacts/Marijuana.pdf>

“Nationwide Trends”, NIDA InfoFacts, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Institutes of Health: National Institute on Drug Abuse, September 2004.

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/pdf/infofacts/NationTrends10.pdf>