

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF EDUCATION, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT BENEFIT TO THE HUMAN RACE THROUGH THE PROGRESSIVE AND CONTINUING RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF DRUGS FOR LEGITIMATE MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, WHICH DRUGS HAVE LESSENED HUMAN SUFFERING, AND CONTRIBUTED MAGNIFICENTLY TO INCREASING GOOD HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

(B) THE ILLEGAL MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, POSSESSION, AND MISUSE OF DRUGS AND CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES HAVE LED TO HUMAN SUFFERING AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSS AND ARE HAVING A SUBSTANTIAL AND INCREASING DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE HEALTH AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

(C) THE MISUSE OF DRUGS BEGAN TO INCREASE IN THE COUNTY IN 1966 AND HAS CONTINUED TO INCREASE EACH YEAR. THE INCREASE IN MISUSE OF DRUGS AND CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES, WHILE AFFECTING ALL AGE GROUPS, HAS GREATLY AFFECTED YOUNG PERSONS OF AGE 25 AND UNDER. MANY COMMUNITY GROUPS BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL DRUG-RELATED PROBLEMS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND THAT THERE IS A GROWING TENDENCY TOWARD THE USE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS DRUGS, INCLUDING COCAINE AND HEROIN.

(D) EVEN THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING COST TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY AND STATE FOR POLICE, JUDICIAL, PENAL AND MEDICAL CARE PURPOSES, DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY CAUSED BY DRUG ABUSE, THE FACILITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY AND IN THE STATE FOR PERSONS AFFLICTED WITH DRUG ABUSE PROBLEMS BOTH PHYSICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY ARE GROSSLY INADEQUATE.

(E) THE MISUSE AND ABUSE OF DRUGS AND CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES MUST BE DISCOURAGED AND ELIMINATED.

(F) THERE IS NEEDED IN THE COUNTY A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTION TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY. THE PROGRAM SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND FURTHER IN COORDINATION AND IN COOPERATION WITH LOCAL PRIVATE COMMUNITY GROUPS AND OTHER PRIVATE GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AREA. SUCH A PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE