

WHEREAS, The problem of inhalation of solvents and other toxic substances is growing, both in rural and urban areas, among various age groups but is prevalent particularly among youths between the ages of 11 and 17; and

WHEREAS, Peer group pressure is particularly intense in the area of initiating and perpetuating the abuse of specific solvents; and

WHEREAS, The vigorous enforcement of narcotic laws has a tendency to drive individuals of limited income, particularly the young, to turn to inhalants as a substitute for narcotics; and

WHEREAS, Inhalant abusers are invisible to the educational and health care delivery systems, but visible to the criminal system; and

WHEREAS, The abuse of inhalants encompasses a rather large range of substances with an equally wide range of potentially toxic effects; and

WHEREAS, Solvents and other inhalants are acquired easily because of their ready availability against which legislation has not been an effective counter measure; and

WHEREAS, It is easy to shoplift solvents because of the convenience of their packaging and their relatively low cost; and

WHEREAS, It is well known that the growing tissues in young people are more sensitive to toxic products than mature cells, thus causing cellular damage in pubescents at concentrations not as likely to cause impairment in older persons; and

WHEREAS, Preliminary findings indicate a wide range of neuropsychological impairments in chronic inhalant abusers which could have serious implications during the abuser's formative years when the techniques of coping with daily frustrations and problems are learned, thus leaving the abuser emotionally immature for life and precluding not only their treatability but also the acquisition of information and values that would enable them to be productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, The morbidity and mortality rates are sufficient to cause grave concern; and

WHEREAS, Statistics indicate a need to have a considerably more detailed understanding of the patterns of the implications of inhalant use for different groups; and

WHEREAS, Present deficiencies in the epidemiological data concerning inhalant abuse argue for a more systematic study of the problem, especially in high risk groups; now, therefore, be it