



SR0747

LRB104 21564 LAW 36977 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, Each October, National Youth Substance Use Prevention Month is observed to highlight the critical need to prevent young people from initiating substance use; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, In 2024, 9% of eighth graders, 16.9% of tenth graders, and 26.2% of twelfth graders reported using illegal substances in the past year, reflecting young lives full of promise, yet facing obstacles; and

6

7

8

9

WHEREAS, The adolescent brain, still developing until age 25, is particularly vulnerable to the damaging effects of drugs and alcohol, and early substance use significantly increases the likelihood of developing substance use disorders, mental health difficulties, and long-term health consequences; and

10

11

12

13

14

15

WHEREAS, When youth engage in substance use, the impact extends beyond the individual, affecting families, schools, and entire communities through reduced academic performance, increased behavioral problems, and heightened safety concerns; and

16

17

18

19

20

WHEREAS, Prevention efforts enhance protective factors and minimize risks in individuals, families, schools, communities,

21

1 and society at large, and prevention professionals play a
2 vital role in protecting youth by implementing evidence-based
3 strategies that delay substance use initiation while building
4 protective factors; and

5 WHEREAS, Effective prevention includes early detection and
6 intervention for vulnerable adolescents, comprehensive support
7 networks connecting families, schools, healthcare providers,
8 and communities, and expanding availability to prevention
9 services to ensure all youth receive necessary resources and
10 support; and

11 WHEREAS, Successful prevention also focuses on
12 strengthening protective factors such as mentorship programs,
13 family engagement, skill-building activities, and creating
14 safe community environments where young people can thrive; and

15 WHEREAS, By working collaboratively, families, schools,
16 healthcare professionals, and communities can reduce risk
17 factors, enhance protective elements, and build healthier
18 futures for our youth; and

19 WHEREAS, As the future of our nation, America's young
20 people deserve the opportunity to thrive and reach their full
21 potential; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare October
3 2026 as Youth Substance Use Prevention Month in the State of
4 Illinois to bring awareness to youth substance use and to
5 provide the youth of Illinois with the support they need to
6 lead healthy lives and achieve their dreams.