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As of: August 12, 2004 (2:59pm)

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**** Joint Resolution No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the *****

A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana urging the Governor, the Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services, and the Director of the Department of Corrections to continue the efforts towards intra-agency and interagency prevention coordination and to support interagency efforts to assist Montanans in need and to combat the substantial effects of substance abuse, especially methamphetamine use, on our society.

WHEREAS, Gail Gray, outgoing Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services has made proposals regarding intra-agency prevention coordination for the myriad of prevention programs at the department that involve public health and prevention activities, including alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and abuse prevention; and

WHEREAS, Gail Gray, outgoing Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services and Bill Slaughter, outgoing Director of the Department of Corrections, and their staffs have teamed together in the "Building Bridges" effort to provide transition social services to offenders who are or will be released from incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Crime Control has restructured to include subcommittees on prevention and treatment and funds many

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prevention programs involving youth, crime, and drug control; and

WHEREAS, the Governor held a Meth Summit to explore the policy options and strategies to reduce the production, distribution, and use of methamphetamine in Montana, and energized many regions of the state to coordinate efforts at the local level and also reconvened the Montana Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Control Policy Task Force to assist in developing policy initiatives for the future; and

WHEREAS, the majority of drug control efforts lie in local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies and with the Department of Justice that cannot solve the problem of substance abuse, especially methamphetamine use, alone and requires coordinated education, prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts throughout society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That the new Governor support efforts to coordinate substance abuse prevention and treatment activities within and across executive branch agencies.

(2) That the Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services support the efforts of the VISTA program, the Prevention Resource Center, and to maintain the Prevention Connection newsletter within the department.

(3) That the Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services support a position to perform intra-agency cross division planning and coordination for prevention

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activities, including the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and abuse, and with other public health prevention efforts, including but not limited to the prevention of child abuse, teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, suicide, and the retail sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors.

(4) That the Board of Crime Control grow in its efforts to coordinate its prevention programs with those at the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

(5) That all agencies in the Executive Branch, including those under the Governor, the Attorney General, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction work together to coordinate education, prevention, and drug control efforts to enable and provide resources to local communities to combat the ill effects of abuse of legal and illegal substances and their concomitant effects on the public health and criminal justice systems.

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