

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

Resolution 2008-2

July 28, 2008

The Florida Sheriff's Association endorses the work of the Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education (NOPE) Task Force in its efforts to eliminate the abuse of illegal and legal drugs, particularly among teens and young adults in Florida.

WHEREAS, the state of Florida ranks among the highest in per capita use of illegal drugs amongst teens and young adults in the United States.

WHEREAS, the abuse of illegal drugs by teens and young adults contributes significantly to the poor academic performance in Florida schools.

WHEREAS, the average age of first use of alcohol is 12 years (Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, 2007).

WHEREAS, in 2007 there were reported 8,620 drug related deaths in the state of Florida or an average of 24 deaths per day (2007 Florida Medical Examiners Report).

WHEREAS, prescription medication abuse by teens and young adults is a serious problem in the United States. As reported in the Partnership for a Drug Free America's Annual Tracking Study:

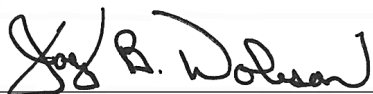
- 2,500 teens try prescription drugs for the first time each day
- 1 in 5 teens has abused a prescription pain medication
- 1 in 5 teens report abusing prescription stimulants and tranquilizers
- 1 in 10 teens has abused cough medication use

WHEREAS, raising public awareness of the life-threatening hazards associated with prescription drug misuse and illicit drug abuse is critical in the overall effort to diminish the number of drug related deaths in Florida.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Florida Sheriffs Association support the work of the Narcotic Overdose Prevention and Education (NOPE) Task Force. The NOPE Task Force is a group of community leaders and concerned parents working to save lives through dramatic presentations on the deadly consequences of drug abuse, through ongoing efforts to influence anti-drug legislation and by providing vital information about where young people with a substance abuse problem, as well as their families, can go for help.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY 2008, by the General Membership of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



Sheriff Joey B. Dobson
President

ATTEST:



Gary E. Perkins
Executive Director