

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 23

By: Brown, Cain, Campbell, Capps,
Coffee, Crutchfield, Dickerson,
Douglass, Dunlap, Easley, Fair,
Fisher, Ford, Haney, Harrison,
Helton, Henry, Herbert, Hobson,
Horner, Johnson, Kerr, Laughlin,
Leftwich, Littlefield, Long, Maddox,
Martin, Mickle, Milacek, Monson,
Morgan, Muegge, Price, Pruitt,
Rabon, Robinson, Rozell, Shurden,
Smith, Snyder, Stipe, Taylor, Weedn,
Wilcoxson, Wilkerson, Williams and
Williamson

A Resolution designating April 8, 1999, as Alcohol Screening Day in the State of Oklahoma; encouraging all those who might have an alcohol related problem or know someone who does have such a problem to participate; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, more than 14 million Americans are trapped by addiction to alcohol. Left untreated, alcoholism has many negative effects. About 100,000 adults die of alcoholism annually in the United States. Alcoholism costs the economy more than \$167 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, the medical community is addressing the problem. To help those who suspect they may have a drinking problem, medical doctors and health-care providers have established a national hotline (1-800-636-7600) and 1,600 screening centers nationwide. This free service is for people who want to stop abusing alcohol. The program is designed to educate the public about alcohol related problems and offer those who may be struggling a means of finding assistance; and

WHEREAS, the first National Alcohol Screening Day is aimed at the entire community and all are invited to attend. Participants will hear an educational presentation on alcohol related problems, have the opportunity to complete a written self-evaluation, and have an opportunity to talk one-on-one with a health professional. There will also be pamphlets, brochures, flyers, and counselors to speak to those who appear to need further evaluation, referrals to local treatment or other support resources; and

WHEREAS, the first National Alcohol Screening Day is a program of the nonprofit National Mental Illness Screening Project in partnership with the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, part of the National Institutes of Health; and

WHEREAS, many problem drinkers close their eyes to the problems in their lives, often blaming everyone around them for their problems. Problem drinkers are often unable to recognize the negative impact of alcohol abuse. Problem drinkers are often in denial about their difficulties; and

WHEREAS, even if problem drinkers are not open to screening now, they might be open to information later. The screening can tip the balance for the person who has trouble with alcohol. Friends and family members are encouraged to go to the screening centers to talk to counselors, even if the individual in denial will not. Family and friends can learn about support services in their area and can obtain educational information available if the opportunity arises to discuss this with the individual in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate hereby designates April 8, 1999, as Alcohol Screening Day in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate encourages all those who might have a problem with the consumption of alcohol or who know someone who does have such a problem to participate in the screening.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Adopted by the Senate the 7th day of April, 1999.

President of the Senate