

**Southern Health Association  
Resolution  
For Early Intervention Alcohol Education**

**WHEREAS**, the first use of alcohol typically begins around age 13; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of alcohol at an early age is an indicator of future alcohol problems; and

**WHEREAS**, 35 % of fourth graders and 49% of sixth graders say they have received pressure from their classmates to drink beer; and

**WHEREAS**, almost 50% of teens ages 14-19 state they have been intoxicated by the use of alcohol; and

**WHEREAS**, 56% of U.S. students in grades 5-12 state that alcohol advertising encourages them to drink (1990); and

**WHEREAS**, the total cost of alcohol use by youths including traffic crashes, crime, suicide attempts, FAS and treatments is more than \$58 billion per year; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately two-thirds of teenagers who drink, report they can buy their own alcohol beverages even though it is illegal in all 50 states; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Southern Health Association strongly urges State Legislators to increase penalties, and/or fines for the sale of alcohol to minors to \$500.00 for the first offense, \$1000.00 for the second offense, and 11 months, 29 days for the third offense; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that any and all funds generated by these increased penalties be used to support early intervention alcohol education and treatment programs; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Affiliate States Governor, the Secretary of the Cabinet of Health Services, the Commissioner for the Department of Public Health and members of the General assembly.

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Ted Hanekamp, President  
Southern Health Association

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May 5, 2006  
Date