



Resolution: Encouraging every state to declare that evidence-based youth tobacco prevention education is an important part of meaningful health education for every student.

Ratified: November 2012

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2009: 80% of adult smokers begin smoking before 18 years of age, 19.5% of high school students and 5.2% of middle school students smoked one or more cigarettes in the previous month, 8.9% of high school students and 2.6% of middle school students were current smokeless tobacco users; and

WHEREAS, while a steady decline in youth tobacco usage is acknowledged, the rate of decline has tapered; and

WHEREAS, through education, deterrent measures, and denied access to tobacco products, the above-mentioned statistics can be improved; and

WHEREAS, it is important to take measures to continue the decline in youth usage to ensure the wellness of America's youth, so that they grow up to be healthy and productive citizens; and **WHEREAS**, it is vital that educators identify creative and effective ways to influence students that will result in a positive change in behavior; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based youth tobacco prevention education curriculum exists that is available at no cost to schools; and

WHEREAS, minors are not presently prohibited from purchasing and consuming tobacco derived products because they are not included in most state statutes; and

WHEREAS, properly defining tobacco-derived products in state statutes, while prohibiting their purchase and possession by minors is crucial; and

WHEREAS, "tobacco-derived products" means any non-combustible product that contains nicotine derived from tobacco, but does not contain tobacco leaf, including electronic cigarettes, which is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, or ingested by any other means. Products exempted are those approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration as drugs and/or devices under Chapter V of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; and

WHEREAS, "Electronic Cigarette" means a non-combustible tobacco-derived-nicotine product that employs a mechanical heating element, battery or electronic circuit, regardless of shape or size, that creates nicotine vapor by means of heating a liquid nicotine solution contained in cartridges or other delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) shows that the average national retailer violation rate of tobacco sales is down to 9.3% (from 40.1% in 1997) and that all 50 states are in compliance with federal Synar regulation, yet CDC data suggests that minors are now getting tobacco products from sources other than retail; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of online and illicit purchases of tobacco and tobacco-derived products necessitates creating a deterrent for minors, who may avoid enforcement at retail of age-restricted purchase laws, by also making underage possession of all tobacco products illegal; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Foundation for Women Legislators encourages every state to declare that evidence based youth tobacco prevention education is an important part of meaningful health education for every student. This education should encourage understanding of the dangers of smoking, as well as nicotine addiction in any form, and enhance decision-making skills to facilitate a decision to avoid tobacco use by minors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this NFWL Committee encourages every state to establish and support laws that address not only sales to minors, but also the purchase and possession of tobacco products by minors, to include both traditional tobacco products as well as tobacco-derived products.