

House Resolution 1502

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Williams of the 165th, Lane of the 158th, and Barnard of the 166th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Bryan County Family Connection and the Bryan County Drug
2 Free Coalition; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Bryan County Family Connection and the Bryan County Drug Free
4 Coalition are working to increase awareness of family members and friends of the dangers
5 associated with unsupervised use of prescription drugs and easy access to over-the-counter
6 drugs; and

7 WHEREAS, coalition members are concerned community citizens who are interested in
8 expanding partnership with elected officials, pharmaceutical companies, pharmacist, and
9 parents to protect our youth; and

10 WHEREAS, in January, 2008, the White House acknowledged the newest release of
11 *Prescription for Danger: A Report on the Troubling Trend of Prescription and Over-the-*
12 *Counter Drug Abuse Among the Nation's Teens*, completed by the Office of National Drug
13 Control Policy of the Executive Office of the President, highlighting some alarming statistics
14 regarding youth and charging parents and community leaders to take an active role in
15 prevention; and

16 WHEREAS, every day, 2,500 youth from ages 12 to 17 abuse a prescription pain reliever for
17 the very first time, and more teens abuse prescription drugs than any other illicit drug,
18 except marijuana; and

19 WHEREAS, the majority of teens who abuse prescription drugs get them easily and for free,
20 primarily from friends and relatives; and

21 WHEREAS, the prescription drugs most commonly abused by teens are painkillers,
22 depressants, anti-anxiety drugs, and stimulants, mainly prescribed to treat attention-deficit
23 hyperactivity disorder; and

1 WHEREAS, teens are abusing prescription drugs because many believe the myth that these
2 drugs provide a "safe" high and because they are easily available, and teens are also abusing
3 some over-the-counter cough and cold medicines to get high, which is especially troubling
4 considering the availability of these common products; and

5 WHEREAS, many parents are not aware of teen prescription drug abuse, and they say their
6 parents are not discussing these dangers with them, even though research shows that parental
7 disapproval is a powerful deterrent; and

8 WHEREAS, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of poisonings and deaths
9 associated with the abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and some teens use
10 prescription and over-the-counter drugs with alcohol or other drugs, which could lead to
11 dangerous drug interactions and serious medical consequences.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the members of this body join together in recognizing Bryan County Family Connection and
14 Bryan County Drug Free Coalition and commend them for their efforts to increase awareness
15 of the problems of unsupervised use of prescription drugs and easy access to
16 over-the-counter drugs.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby
18 authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Bryan County
19 Family Connection and the Bryan County Drug Free Coalition.