

# STATE OF ALASKA



## Executive Proclamation

by

**Steve Cowper, Governor**

The disease of alcoholism and the problem of alcohol abuse have become the most serious health and social problems facing Alaskans today. Alcohol abuse affects not only the user, but extends far beyond to families and communities. More than 50 percent of all fatal accidents in Alaska involve alcohol and it continues to be the leading cause of family upheaval, suicide and violent crimes.

Alcohol is America's number one drug problem among youth. An estimated 4.6 million teens nationwide experience serious alcohol problems. Studies show that first use of alcohol is starting at increasingly earlier ages, and experts believe that alcohol use is frequently a "gateway drug" leading to other addicting substances and problem behaviors. Three-fourths of Alaska's students, from seventh through twelfth grade, report having used alcohol.

In response to these facts, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has launched a major nationwide effort in cooperation with the mass media and many other organizations. Their goal is to increase awareness of the scope of abuse among youth and to prevent early use through the media campaign, "Be Smart! Don't Start! - Just Say No!"

The staggering economic and social costs of alcohol abuse are borne by every Alaskan, hence, we should all be part of the solution.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Cowper, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1987 as:

**BE SMART! DON'T START! - JUST SAY NO! MONTH**

in Alaska, and urge all citizens to take positive action against the problem of alcohol abuse, particularly to our youth.

DATED: March 10, 1987

Done by

A handwritten signature of Steve Cowper in dark ink.

**Steve Cowper, Governor**  
who has also authorized  
the seal of the State of  
Alaska to be affixed to  
this proclamation.