

**AFN 2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Resolution 13-24**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO ENHANCE ITS PREVENTION AND  
ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AGAINST DANGEROUS DRUGS IN RURAL ALASKA**

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and

**WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

**WHEREAS:** In the recent past social problems in the Rural Communities appear to have gotten worse, as measured by a high number of suicides and other deaths related to substance abuse; and

**WHEREAS:** In the past few months there have been several arrests for black tar heroin and methamphetamines in rural Alaska, and anecdotal evidence suggests these arrests merely scratch the surface of a much bigger problem and that a trafficking route throughout many rural villages has developed by carriers who take air transportation, sea vessels, and other routes of transportation to the villages, for example: through Bristol Bay villages and up to the Kuskokwim region and farther north has developed by couriers who take small air taxis through the villages; and

**WHEREAS:** Although the State of Alaska has increased the number of VPSOs in rural Alaska and devoted some additional spending on domestic violence and sexual assault, there has been no particular focus on drugs and substance abuse, and the State Administration has relentlessly opposed tribal jurisdiction and tribal alternatives to the state justice system

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. that AFN urges the State of Alaska to step up its enforcement activities against dangerous drugs such as heroin and methamphetamines.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Governor Parnell and the responsible agencies of the State of Alaska are urged to seek creative solutions and partnerships to reduce substance abuse, such as: using the “Choose Respect” initiative to bolster community awareness; partnering with the rural air carriers, fish processing companies and municipal governments in hub communities for better airport and boat harbor screening; and recognizing tribal authority and deferring appropriate cases, particularly juvenile cases, to the tribes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: Passed as amended**