



## Legislation Text

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To recognize Red Ribbon Week and to celebrate a drug free Columbus.

**WHEREAS**, the National Family Partnership and a handful of concerned and determined parents established a national grassroots nonprofit organization to lead and support families and communities in nurturing the full potential of healthy, drug free youth; and

**WHEREAS**, underage drinking cost the citizens of Ohio \$2.9 billion, and 21.1% of the alcohol consumed is by underage drinkers; and

**WHEREAS**, 3 of 4 children in protective custody in Ohio were removed from their homes because of a substance-abusing parent; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past decade, babies born with drug addiction increased sixfold; and

**WHEREAS**, alcohol and other drugs were involved in 78% of violent crimes, 83% of property crimes and 77% of public order or weapons offenses and probation/parole violations; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness is the key to effectively preventing drug abuse and gambling addiction and to educating Ohio's youth about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse and gambling; and

**WHEREAS**, substance use prevention programs can improve the behavioral health of communities as well as save \$4 to \$5 for every dollar invested in drug abuse treatment and counseling; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's Red Ribbon Celebration theme "Love Yourself - Don't Do Drugs" highlights the year round message of being alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Gateway Substance Abuse Solutions Committee comprised of South Side residents has declared October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to be "Stand Up Against Addictions Weekend" and has organized a series of events to help combat addictions; and

**WHEREAS**, business, media, social services, governments, schools, service organizations, faith based entities, safety forces and individuals will demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyle by wearing and displaying Red Ribbons and posters during this week long celebration and participating in the South Side events; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

That this Council does hereby declare October 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> as Red Ribbon Celebration Week and October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> to be the South Side Stand Up Against Addictions Weekend.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That this Council urges all Ohioans to wear a Red Ribbon, participate in activities sponsored by your schools and

communities, and make a commitment to a healthy drug free lifestyle.