



## RESOLUTION 2004-02

**WHEREAS:** Safe and healthy border neighborhoods, free of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug abuse is the goal of all border communities; and

**WHEREAS** The consumption of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs has increased significantly on both sides of the United States - Mexico Border, particularly among the youth; and

**WHEREAS:** The misuse and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs has adverse health, legal, and economic consequences to border communities that are in excess of \$200 billion annually; and

**WHEREAS:** The ongoing concern about substance, alcohol and tobacco abuse affecting our shared border region obligates government, non-governmental organizations, and the general public of the United States and Mexico border communities to address them in a collaborative and coordinated manner; and

**WHEREAS:** Strategies that support the best practices of prevention, intervention, and effective treatment play an integral role in reducing the misuse and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs; and

**WHEREAS:** The formation of a Bi-National Alliance of Border Coalitions, comprised of community-based organizations and in collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies on both sides of the border, would develop a much needed mechanism to address these issues and strengthen the capacity of local coalitions;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Border Legislative Conference, a binational mechanism of cooperation among state legislators of the 10 United States and Mexico border states support the formation of the United States - Mexico Alliance of Border Coalitions to, among other things:

- A. *Represent the needs of the existing community coalitions involved in prevention, intervention and treatment of problems resulting from the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs;*
- B. *Coordinate and promote training and supportive assistance that is based on best practices in community based efforts; and*
- C. *Assess the need for collaborative development of policy and best practices to address the problems of alcohol abuse, tobacco and illicit drug use that exists along the United States - Mexico border region.*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Border Legislative Conference urges the federal and state governments on both sides of the border to provide financial and technical assistance for the development and implementation of a binational Alliance of Border Coalitions.

Adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> of November of 2004 during the IX Border Legislative Conference in Hermosillo, Sonora.

Senator Robert Cannell  
Chair, BLC  
Arizona State Senate

Diputado Carlos Galindo Meza  
Vice Chair, BLC  
Sonora State Legislature