

# EARLY DETECTION AND ACTION CAN SAVE A LIFE.

AND WE'RE NOT talking about cancer or heart disease. We're talking about your child's drug or alcohol use.

Teens who use drugs risk damaging their developing minds and bodies – and face the possibility of addiction.

How, and when, you respond to your teenager when you suspect or find out he is using drugs could have a serious impact on his future.

When should you take action?

Common sense tells us that addressing a problem early can help keep it from getting out of control and doing serious harm in our lives. This principle also holds true when it comes to drug and alcohol use among kids. Research shows that the earlier a kid uses marijuana or

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OPEN  
LETTER  
TO  
PARENTS

alcohol, the more likely they are to become dependent on drugs or alcohol later in life.

Though use does not always end in addiction, addiction always begins with a decision to use. If you suspect your teenager has tried drugs or alcohol, then you know that your son or daughter is at a critical crossroads.

Experimentation is a big deal – marijuana is more potent than it was when you were young – and shouldn't be accepted as a rite of passage.

What you do matters.

So, even though their drug or alcohol use might feel like the toughest issue you've ever faced, addressing it could be the most important thing you do.

Get informed and take action early.

*Signed,*

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

PARENTING COALITION INTERNATIONAL

PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE AMERICA

NATIONAL PTA

NATIONAL FAMILIES IN ACTION

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

COMMUNITY ANTI-DRUG COALITIONS OF AMERICA

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