

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS ED KING. I AM DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON YOUTH BUREAU, AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE TOWN'S COMMUNITY-BASED DRUG PROGRAM.

MY TESTIMONY TODAY IS BASED ON OVER SEVEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN MY PRESENT POSITION WITH HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP, WHICH IS A LARGE LONG ISLAND SUBURB OF NEW YORK CITY, WITH A POPULATION OF 220,000 PEOPLE.

IN 1968, THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON ESTABLISHED THE FIRST TOWN-LEVEL YOUTH BUREAU IN NEW YORK STATE FUNDED BY THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION FOR YOUTH, AND OUR YOUTH BUREAU WAS AMONG THE VERY FIRST AGENCIES TO RECEIVE STATE FUNDS TO OPERATE A COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF YOUTHFUL DRUG ABUSE IN 1970. IN 1971, THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON INSTITUTED THE FIRST VOLUNTARY AMPHETAMINE BAN IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH PLAN INCLUDES EIGHT PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS KNOWN AS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS SERVING LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP, AND SEVERAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN THE AREAS OF JOB DEVELOPMENT, SUMMER CAMPS, RUNAWAY PLACEMENTS, FAMILY ADVOCACY, AND COURT DIVERSION, AS WELL AS THE DRUG PROGRAM WHICH CONSISTS OF A HOTLINE, COUNSELLING CENTER, AND OUTREACH WORKERS ASSIGNED TO THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS.

WE FEEL THAT OUR EIGHT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS ON CONTRACT WITH THE YOUTH BUREAU PROVIDE THE KEY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM STRATEGIES SPECIFIC TO REDUCING DRUG ABUSE. THEY ARE OPERATED BY LOCAL BOARDS OF COMMUNITY CITIZENS (ADULTS AND YOUTHS), AND ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO RECOGNIZE LOCAL PROBLEMS AND THEIR