



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

MEMORANDUM TO ALL DOT EMPLOYEES

Our highest priority at the Department of Transportation (DOT) is the safety of the travelling public. As part of DOT's strategic goal to promote the public health and safety by working toward the elimination of transportation-related deaths, injuries, and property damage, we are committed to drug and alcohol-free workplace programs and operating environments. Workplace prevention and early intervention can improve work productivity and quality, reduce medical claims and absenteeism, improve employee health, enhance ability to recognize and deal with family substance abuse problems, save money, and, most importantly, save lives. Each of us has an important role in establishing and maintaining a drug and alcohol-free workplace. Please join me in participating in alcohol and drug awareness activities at work and in your community.

April is National Alcohol Awareness Month, a most appropriate time to focus renewed attention on substance abuse. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism estimates that nearly 14 million Americans are problem drinkers or suffer from alcoholism. Four times as many people have been exposed to alcoholism in their families. The cost to society is enormous: every year alcohol kills 100,000 Americans, making it the Nation's third leading cause of preventable death, and it drains at least \$100 million in lost productivity and health care costs from the American economy. Nearly one-fourth of all Americans who are admitted to general hospitals have alcohol problems or are undiagnosed alcoholics who are being treated for the consequences of their drinking.

We all must join forces and take a comprehensive approach to fighting substance abuse of any type. No one school curriculum, law enforcement policy, alternative activity, or family intervention will prevent the devastating problems of substance abuse. Prevention means safer and healthier neighborhoods and communities throughout the country. You have my commitment to providing an alcohol and drug free work environment that fosters the well-being of all DOT employees. I call on each of the Operating Administrations to enhance employee awareness of the ill effects of substance abuse and stress that there is confidential help available. It is also important to support coworkers or family members with substance abuse issues.

If you need information or assistance, call the Department's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) on 1-800-222-0364 (FAA employees, 1-800-234-1EAP), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This valuable program has been established to provide confidential help to you and your family with many personal concerns, including substance abuse, which confront working families.


Rodney E. Slater

"A Life of Substance Abuse is Life Without Substance"