HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15(title am)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES PORTER, Croft, Smalley, Murkowski, Joule

SENATORS Halford, Taylor, Wilken, Leman, Tim Kelly

Amended: 1/24/00
Introduced: 1/10/00

A RESOLUTION

Requesting the governor to proclaim March 2000 as Developmental Disability Awareness Month.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS nearly 12,000 Alaskans have developmental disabilities that are based on physical or mental impairments or a combination of physical and mental impairments; and

WHEREAS persons with developmental disabilities often have substantial functional limitations to being able to take care of themselves or to being economically self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS these limitations on major life activities are generally life-long and require a wide array of services and support systems; and

WHEREAS the individualized assistance offered to persons with developmental disabilities by the state is complemented by the effective advocacy of the caring people of various organizations that make up the Key Campaign, such as the Key Coalition, community providers, people with developmental disabilities and their families, and the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education; and

WHEREAS the legislature applauds the efforts of the Key Campaign in helping to
ensure that more Alaskans with developmental disabilities and their families are able to participate in and contribute to their communities through integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstreams; and

WHEREAS the legislature wishes to acknowledge the power of community that is exemplified by the Key Campaign; and

WHEREAS the legislature wishes to promote awareness of the needs of persons with developmental disabilities and the extent to which these persons can share in and contribute to the life of each community where they live;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the governor to proclaim March 2000 as Developmental Disability Awareness Month and urges schools, civic groups, and governmental agencies to observe the month by suitable activities.