CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/25/15
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Claman, Drummond, Millett, Johnson, Tuck, Josephson, LeDoux

A RESOLUTION

1  Proclaiming April 2015 as Child Abuse Prevention Month; and proclaiming April 10, 2015, as Go Blue Friday.

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

WHEREAS the state currently has one of the five highest rates of child abuse in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2014, the Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Children’s Services, received more than 40,000 allegations of harm involving tens of thousands of children; and

WHEREAS, for every 1,000 children in the state, 42 are victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS more than 2,000 children in the state have been removed from unsafe homes and placed in foster care; and

WHEREAS child abuse and neglect leave cross-generational damage resulting in approximately 30 percent of abused or neglected children who will grow up to abuse or neglect their children; and

WHEREAS 36 percent of all women in prison and 14 percent of all men in prison were abused or neglected as children; and
WHEREAS children who experience child abuse or neglect are about nine times
more likely to become involved in criminal activity than children who do not experience child
abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS the long-term effects of child abuse include improper brain formation, an
inability to trust, low self-esteem, and an increased vulnerability to post-traumatic stress
disorder, sexually transmitted diseases, heart disease, cancer, and depression; and

WHEREAS every child deserves a loving family, a safe home, and the opportunity to
grow into an upstanding and responsible member of society; and

WHEREAS we must work together to support the efforts of all those who take
children into their homes and hearts because the community as a whole suffers in every case
of child abuse and neglect;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims April 2015 to be
Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims April 10, 2015,
as Go Blue Friday, a day to wear blue, the official color of prevention, and to work to keep
the state's children safe and encourages all state employees and other residents of the state to
participate; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports and encourages
all state employees and other residents of the state to support child abuse prevention and
education efforts.