

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/15/12

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming the month of April 2012 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** sexual assault affects women, children, and men of all racial, cultural,
4 and economic backgrounds, and occurs through acquaintance rape, stranger rape, sexual
5 assault by a partner, child sexual abuse, incest, sexual harassment, prostitution, and
6 pornography; and

7 **WHEREAS** it is estimated that one in three women, one in four girls, one in six boys,
8 and one in 11 men will report being victims of sexual violence; and

9 **WHEREAS** the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's privacy, dignity,
10 security, and humanity, and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars that can
11 influence every aspect of an individual's life; and

12 **WHEREAS** this state, at 2.5 times the national average, continues to have the highest
13 per capita occurrence of sexual assault in the nation, and it is important that sexual assault be
14 recognized as a problem of epidemic proportions in every community, urban, rural, and
15 remote, in the state; and

16 **WHEREAS** speaking out against sexual assault is an important first step toward

1 eliminating this devastating crime; and

2 **WHEREAS** it is important to recognize the compassion, commitment, and dedication
3 of the individuals who provide services to sexual assault survivors and work to increase
4 public understanding of this major problem; and

5 **WHEREAS**, because one person, organization, agency, or community cannot by itself
6 eliminate sexual violence, the citizens of Alaska need to work together to educate the entire
7 population of the state about what can be done to eliminate sexual assault, to support victims,
8 survivors, and their families, and personally to increase support for agencies that provide
9 services to these survivors; by uniting in this effort, the citizens of this state can make a
10 difference;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of
12 April 2012 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages all of the citizens of the
13 state to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month by speaking out against sexual assault,
14 listening to those who have been harmed, and letting others know that sexual assault will not
15 be tolerated.