

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON**

**Introduced: 1/25/12**

**Referred:**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Designating February 2012 as American Heart Month.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** cardiovascular disease is the nation's leading cause of death; and

4 **WHEREAS** cardiovascular disease is the costliest disease in the nation, with direct  
5 and indirect costs estimated to be \$297,700,000,000 a year; and

6 **WHEREAS** cardiovascular disease accounts for one out of three deaths nationwide;  
7 and

8 **WHEREAS** nearly 2,200 Americans die of cardiovascular disease each day, an  
9 average of one death every 39 seconds; and

10 **WHEREAS** nearly 33 percent of deaths caused by cardiovascular disease occur in  
11 persons under 75 years of age; and

12 **WHEREAS**, this year, an estimated 785,000 people nationwide will have a new  
13 coronary attack, an estimated 470,000 people nationwide will have a recurrent attack, and an  
14 additional 195,000 people nationwide will have a silent heart attack; and

15 **WHEREAS** the research is clear that there are preventive strategies, as well as  
16 community-based strategies, that can increase survival rates from cardiovascular disease; and

1           **WHEREAS** the American Heart Association's 2020 impact goal seeks to improve the  
2 cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent while reducing deaths from  
3 cardiovascular disease and stroke by 20 percent through research, population-level and  
4 community-level interventions, and public health and policy measures; and

5           **WHEREAS** the American Heart Association encourages citizens to help save lives by  
6 calling 911 if symptoms occur, to become trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and to  
7 encourage comprehensive automated external defibrillator programs in their communities;  
8 and

9           **WHEREAS** the American Heart Association is celebrating February 2012 as  
10 American Heart Month and promoting education and awareness by encouraging citizens to  
11 learn the warning signs of heart attack and stroke;

12           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature designates February 2012 as  
13 American Heart Month in recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against heart  
14 disease; and be it

15           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges all citizens to  
16 recognize the critical importance of tools and skills that increase survival rates from cardiac  
17 arrest and to recognize that, by incorporating those tools and skills into aggressive programs,  
18 thousands of lives can be saved each year.