

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Tuck

Introduced: 2/26/14

Referred: Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.**

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

3 **WHEREAS**, in fiscal year 2013, the Department of Health and Social Services,
4 Office of Children's Services, received more than 40,000 reports of harm involving tens of
5 thousands of children; and

6 **WHEREAS**, of the 40,000 reports of harm received in 2013, 5,000 were substantiated
7 reports of child abuse or neglect equating to an average of 13 children a day who were abused
8 or neglected in the state in 2013; and

9 **WHEREAS** more than 2,000 children in the state reside in foster homes; and

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

13 **WHEREAS** 37 percent of all women in prison and 14 percent of all men in prison
14 were abused or neglected as children; and

15 **WHEREAS** the long-term effects of child abuse include improper brain formation, an
16 inability to trust, low self-esteem, and an increased vulnerability to post-traumatic stress

1 disorder, sexually transmitted diseases, heart disease, cancer, and depression; and

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

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

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims April 2014 to be
8 Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports and encourages
10 the residents of the state to support child abuse prevention and education efforts.