

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR MEYER

Introduced: 2/8/17

Referred: State Affairs, Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming April 2017 as 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** the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's privacy, dignity,
8 security, and humanity and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars that can influence
9 every aspect of an individual's life; and

10 **WHEREAS** results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey show an estimated
11 33.1 out of every 100 Alaska women have experienced sexual assault within their lifetime;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey reflect alcohol- or
14 drug-involved sexual violence dropped from 26.8 percent in the 2010 survey to 22.6 percent;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, despite tremendous progress, Alaska still has the highest rates of sexual

1 violence in the nation; and

2 **WHEREAS** 2,126 children were evaluated by child advocacy centers in the state for
3 possible sexual abuse last year; and

4 **WHEREAS** 1,625 adult victims of sexual assault sought services at rape crisis centers
5 in the state last year; and

6 **WHEREAS** it is important to recognize the compassion, commitment, and dedication
7 of the individuals who provide services to sexual assault survivors and work to reduce and
8 eliminate sexual violence; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, 16 communities--Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Cordova,
10 Dillingham, Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Juneau, Kodiak, Kotzebue,
11 Nome, Palmer, Seward, Unalaska, and Valdez--have sexual assault response teams to
12 investigate more effectively crimes of sexual violence; and

13 **WHEREAS** research indicates the need to develop comprehensive sexual violence
14 prevention programs that target multiple, interacting risk and protective factors in
15 behaviorally relevant ways; and

16 **WHEREAS** communities across the state are taking up the challenge, implementing
17 evidence-based prevention programs, such as Girls on the Run, Coaching Boys into Men, and
18 Green Dot Alaska; and

19 **WHEREAS**, because one person, organization, agency, or community cannot, by
20 itself, eliminate sexual violence, the citizens of Alaska need to work together to educate the
21 entire population of the state about what can be done to eliminate sexual assault; and

22 **WHEREAS** schools across the state are implementing the Fourth R-healthy
23 relationships curriculum in grades seven through nine, which has been shown to reduce
24 adherence to rape myths and to enhance social and emotional learning focusing on self-
25 management and responsible decision-making; and

26 **WHEREAS** positive healthy male role models are engaging boys through programs
27 such as COMPASS to explore and adopt concepts of masculinity that include respect for
28 women and nonviolent models of manhood; and

29 **WHEREAS** victims, survivors, and their families deserve support; by uniting in this
30 effort, the citizens of this state can make a difference; last year over 3,100 volunteers devoted
31 48,483 hours of service in the state;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of
2 April 2017 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages all of the residents of the
3 state to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month by taking action to prevent sexual violence.