

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Grenn, Tuck, Gara, Drummond, Ortiz

Introduced: 1/23/17

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming April 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention Month; and proclaiming April 7,**
2 **2017, as Go Blue Friday.**

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

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

6 **WHEREAS**, in fiscal year 2015, the Department of Health and Social Services,
7 Office of Children's Services, received more than 40,000 allegations of harm involving tens of
8 thousands of children; and

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

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

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

15 **WHEREAS** 36 percent of all women in prison and 14 percent of all men in prison
16 were abused or neglected as children; and

1 **WHEREAS** children who experience child abuse or neglect are about nine times
2 more likely to become involved in criminal activity than children who do not experience child
3 abuse or neglect; and

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

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

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

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims April 2017 to be
13 Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims April 7, 2017,
15 as Go Blue Friday, a day to wear blue, the official color of prevention, and to work to keep
16 the state's children safe and encourages all state employees and other residents of the state to
17 participate; and be it

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