

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES NICHOLIA, Grussendorf, Robinson, Navarre, Elton, Toohey, James

SENATORS Duncan, Lincoln, Adams, Pearce, Sharp, Kelly, Leman, Green, Taylor, Halford, Rieger
Miller, Zharoff, Salo

Introduced: 2/15/95

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 1995 as Sobriety Awareness Month, commonly referred to as
2 "SAM."

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

4 **WHEREAS** public and private agencies have identified substance abuse as a path to
5 myriad social problems that have confronted Alaska communities and citizens for decades; and

6 **WHEREAS** the principal strategy in the past for solving these problems has been to
7 focus more on the problem than on the solution; and

8 **WHEREAS** this strategy, although well intentioned, focuses too much on the
9 substance and its abuses than on a solution that can

10 (1) result in socially appropriate behaviors and choices that improve the quality
11 of life and health of individuals, families, and communities;

12 (2) reduce the incidence of alcohol and drug related crimes; and

13 (3) reduce the burden on local, state, and federal governments that exhaust
14 their resources on the symptoms and problems of substance abuse; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives created the AFN Sobriety Movement
16 (AFNSM) to encourage and focus on sobriety as a solution because sobriety produces a

1 positive, healthy, and productive way of life, free from the devastating effects of alcohol and
2 drugs; and

3 **WHEREAS** sobriety is practiced by millions of people within the United States, as
4 well as abroad, and the Alaska Federation of Natives encourages and supports the grassroots
5 sobriety movement, which is already growing in the state; and

6 **WHEREAS** the sobriety movement consists of the collective efforts of public agencies,
7 private agencies, and private individuals to prevent and eradicate substance abuse; and

8 **WHEREAS** the AFNSM Council and the 55 AFNSM charter groups and honor
9 societies, which consist of various local, regional, statewide, and nationwide agencies, have
10 designated the month of March 1995 as Sobriety Awareness Month, commonly referred to as
11 "SAM," in recognition of the thousands of men, women, and children who have signed a
12 statement of sobriety that is being carried to Nome on the Iditarod Trail, and who are already
13 doing their part to reach sobriety and the solution to the substance abuse problem.

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature designates March 1995 as
15 Sobriety Awareness Month to endorse sobriety as a solution to the substance abuse problem
16 in the state and to pay tribute to the thousands of men, women, and children who are doing
17 their part through sobriety to improve the quality of life and the health of themselves, their
18 families, and their communities; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
20 Governor to issue a proclamation for the month and to direct state agencies in the executive
21 branch to engage in suitable activities during Sobriety Awareness Month, and urges the
22 citizens of the state to engage in suitable activities during March 1995 to observe Sobriety
23 Awareness Month.