

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15(RLS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/23/00

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): SENATORS LINCOLN, Hoffman, Taylor, Adams, Ward, Elton, Ellis, Mackie

REPRESENTATIVES Morgan, Dyson, Green, Whitaker, Kapsner, Smalley, Murkowski

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Weeks.

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

3 WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects, which are birth defects
4 related to alcohol consumption by pregnant women, can be prevented if pregnant women and
5 women who plan to become pregnant abstain from alcohol consumption; and

6 WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome results in permanent growth retardation, physical
7 malformations, and permanent central nervous system damage, including developmental
8 delays, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems, and is most often accompanied by
9 mental retardation; and

10 WHEREAS pregnant women who consume alcohol also risk having children with fetal
11 alcohol effects, which most often include permanent developmental delays, learning
12 disabilities, and behavioral problems; and

13 WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome is the number one identifiable cause in the United
14 States of birth defects accompanied by mental retardation and the only preventable one; and

15 WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects have only recently been discovered to be a
16 major health problem, and many questions regarding them remain unanswered; and

17 WHEREAS research shows that children with fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol

1 effects are often unable to live totally independent lives; and

2 **WHEREAS** research has also shown that additional children of a woman who has
3 previously given birth to a child with an alcohol-related birth defect are most often born with
4 alcohol-related birth defects in successively severe degrees if the woman continues to drink
5 during her pregnancies; and

6 **WHEREAS**, without exception, mothers of infants born with fetal alcohol syndrome
7 consumed alcohol during pregnancy; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in the case of substance-abusing women of childbearing age, treatment
9 before conception is an effective method of preventing alcohol-related and other drug-related
10 birth defects; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Surgeon General has issued an advisory that pregnant women and
12 women who plan to become pregnant should not consume alcohol; and

13 **WHEREAS** the division of alcohol and drug abuse, Department of Health and Social
14 Services, will be conducting a campaign designed to increase awareness of fetal alcohol
15 syndrome during the week of May 14 - 20, 2000; and

16 **WHEREAS** the legislature recognizes that the sobriety of fathers is also important to
17 the well-being of their children and the healthy functioning of their families; and

18 **WHEREAS** the legislature wishes to acknowledge RurAL CAP's statewide activities
19 against irresponsible use of alcohol during pregnancy;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
21 Governor to proclaim both the week of Mother's Day, May 14 - 20, 2000, and the week of
22 Father's Day, June 18 - 24, 2000, as Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Weeks and
23 urges schools, health care organizations and practitioners, and other public and private
24 agencies and individuals observe the weeks with appropriate activities.

25 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the governing body of each school district,
26 the State Medical Board, the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives, the Board of Nursing,
27 RurAL CAP, and the chief executive officer of each hospital and health clinic in the state.