

**Advisory Board on Alcoholism
and Drug Abuse**



Alaska Mental Health Board

**ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE**

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JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
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March 30, 2011

Senator Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SCR 7 — FASD Awareness Day

Dear Senator Meyer,

The Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the Alaska Mental Health Board express their appreciation and support for SCR 7 declaring September 9, 2011 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day.

As you know, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are 100% preventable. Raising awareness and recognition of this fact will help prevent more Alaskan children from being born affected by prenatal alcohol exposure.

Even more importantly, SCR 7 will raise awareness of the special and often very individual needs of individuals diagnosed with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Too often the services and supports they need to thrive – at home, at school, and in their communities – are not available. By highlighting a day that focuses on the unique issues of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and their impact on Alaskans, we can not only support Alaskans with FASD, but also prevent future Alaskans from experiencing FASD.

Thank you for your continued work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

J. Kate Burkhart
Executive Director