

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/14/14

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming April 2014 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** it is estimated that one in three women, one in four girls, one in six boys,
8 and one in 11 men will report being victims of sexual violence; and

9 **WHEREAS** the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's privacy, dignity,
10 security, and humanity and leaves lasting physical and emotional scars that can influence
11 every aspect of an individual's life; and

12 **WHEREAS** results from the Alaska Victimization Survey show an estimated 37 out
13 of every 100 women in the state have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime, and it is
14 important that sexual assault be recognized as a problem of epidemic proportions in every
15 community in the state, whether urban, rural, or remote; and

16 **WHEREAS** results from the Alaska Fourth R pilot program show 30 percent of

1 female youths and 16 percent of male youths in the state reported lifetime sexual violence;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS** over 1,650 children were evaluated by child advocacy centers last year;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS** it is important to recognize the compassion, commitment, and dedication
6 of the individuals who provide services to sexual assault survivors and who work to increase
7 public understanding of the crime of sexual assault; and

8 **WHEREAS** speaking out against sexual assault is an important first step toward
9 eliminating that devastating crime; and

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

13 **WHEREAS**, because one person, organization, agency, or community cannot
14 eliminate sexual violence alone, citizens of the state need to work together to educate the
15 entire population of the state about what can be done personally to eliminate sexual assault, to
16 support victims, survivors, and their families, and to increase support for agencies that
17 provide services to survivors; by uniting in this effort, citizens of the state can make a
18 difference;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims April 2014 to be
20 Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages citizens of the state to observe Sexual
21 Assault Awareness Month by speaking out against sexual assault, listening to those who have
22 been harmed, and letting others know that sexual assault will not be tolerated.