

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR MEYER

Introduced: 3/2/15

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming April 2015 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 abilities, and occurs through acquaintance rape, date rape,
5 stranger rape, sexual assault by a partner, child sexual abuse, incest, sexual harassment,
6 prostitution, and pornography; and

7 **WHEREAS** the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's sense of self, privacy,
8 dignity, security, and humanity, and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars that can
9 influence every aspect of an individual's life; and

10 **WHEREAS** results from the Alaska Victimization Survey show an estimated 37 out
11 of every 100 Alaska women have experienced sexual assault within their lifetime; and

12 **WHEREAS** over 1,450 children were evaluated by child advocacy centers in the state
13 for possible sexual abuse last year; and

14 **WHEREAS** approximately 1,400 adult victims of sexual assault sought services at
15 rape crisis centers in the state last year; and

16 **WHEREAS** it is important to recognize the compassion, commitment, and dedication

1 of the individuals who provide services to sexual assault survivors and work to increase
2 public understanding of sexual assault; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2014, first responders from 19 communities--Anchorage, Barrow,
4 Bethel, Cordova, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Homer, Hoonah, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak,
5 Kotzebue, Mat-Su, Nome, Petersburg, Seward, Sitka, and Unalaska--participated in Sexual
6 Assault Response Team training; and

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

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

12 **WHEREAS** communities across the state are taking up the challenge, implementing
13 evidence-based prevention programming such as Girls on the Run, Coaching Boys into Men,
14 and Green Dot Alaska; and

15 **WHEREAS** because one person, organization, agency, or community cannot, by
16 itself, eliminate sexual violence, the citizens of Alaska need to work together to educate the
17 entire population of the state about what can be done to eliminate sexual assault; and

18 **WHEREAS** schools across the state are implementing the Fourth R-healthy
19 relationships curricula in grades 7 through 9, which has been shown to reduce adherence to
20 rape myths that blame the victim and to enhance social and emotional learning, which focuses
21 on self-management and responsible decision-making; and

22 **WHEREAS** positive healthy male role models are engaging boys through programs
23 such as COMPASS to explore and adopt concepts of masculinity that include respect for
24 women and nonviolent models of manhood; and

25 **WHEREAS** victims, survivors, and their families deserve support; by uniting in this
26 effort, the citizens of this state can make a difference; last year approximately 3,000
27 volunteers devoted 75,233 hours of service in the state;

28 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of
29 April 2015 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages all of the citizens of the
30 state to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month by speaking out against sexual assault,
31 listening to those who have been harmed, and letting others know that sexual assault will not

1 be tolerated.