

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

BY SENATOR MEYER

Introduced: 2/22/16

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming April 2016 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** the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's privacy, dignity,
8 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 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey show an estimated
11 33.1 out of every 100 Alaska women have experienced sexual assault within their lifetime;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** over 2,056 children were evaluated by child advocacy centers in the state
14 for possible sexual abuse last year; and

15 **WHEREAS** 1,398 adult victims of sexual assault sought services at rape crisis centers
16 in the state last year; and

1 **WHEREAS** it is important to recognize the compassion, commitment, and dedication
2 of the individuals who provide services to sexual assault survivors and work to increase
3 public understanding of sexual assault; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in 2015, first responders from 16 communities--Anchorage, Barrow,
5 Bethel, Cordova, Dillingham, Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Juneau,
6 Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, Palmer, Seward, Unalaska, and Valdez--participated in Sexual
7 Assault Response Team training; and

8 **WHEREAS** speaking out against sexual assault is an important first step toward
9 eliminating this 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 behaviorally relevant ways; and

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

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

19 **WHEREAS** schools across the state are implementing the Fourth R-healthy
20 relationships curriculum in grades seven through nine, which has been shown to reduce
21 adherence to rape myths and to enhance social and emotional learning focusing on self-
22 management and responsible decision-making; and

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

26 **WHEREAS** victims, survivors, and their families deserve support; by uniting in this
27 effort, the citizens of this state can make a difference; last year approximately 3,000
28 volunteers devoted 63,368 hours of service in the state;

29 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of
30 April 2016 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages all of the residents of the
31 state to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month by speaking out against sexual assault,

- 1 listening to those who have been harmed, and letting others know that sexual assault will not
- 2 be tolerated.