



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

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# SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

**March 30, 2016**

WHEREAS, every Alaskan, regardless of age, race, culture, or status deserves to live free from harm and fear of sexual assault or abuse, and no one has the right or authority to force, coerce, threaten, or manipulate anyone into sexual activity; and

WHEREAS, between 2010 and 2014, the Alaska State Troopers responded to 2.452 sexual abuse of a minor offenses and responded to and/or investigated 4.283 sexual assault offenses; and

WHEREAS, during 2015, Children's Advocacy Centers saw a total of 2,026 children; according to Alaska Children's Alliance, 33 percent of the cases were boys; and

WHEREAS, sexual abuse of children happens in families, churches, recreational centers, schools, youth sports leagues, and other places where our children gather. The most common relationship between victims and a suspect in a sex crime case is a friend or acquaintance; and

WHEREAS, victims of sexual assault often experience emotional, physical, and psychological trauma as a result. Survivors also often suffer from anxiety, depression, phobias, low self-esteem, post-traumatic stress disorder, and/or changes in eating and sleeping habits and are at risk for substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, all Alaskans need to be committed to the prevention of sexual assault through vigilance, awareness, and intervention.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as:

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

in Alaska, and ask all Alaskans to take a stand against sexual assault everywhere in our state – to speak up about suspicious activity, to not look the other way when Alaskans are mistreated, to show support to victims so they may regain their dignity, to show compassion for survivors as they heal, and to become role models to our younger generations to end the cycle of sexual assault.

Dated: March 30, 2016

Our purpose is to energize Alaska's spirit through self-determination and resource stewardship to improve the life of every Alaskan. Find out more about our ***Core Values and Vision*** (*pdf*).

*SAFER COMMUNITIES*  
*RESOURCE*  
*DEVELOPMENT*  
*ECONOMIC SECURITY*

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