

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1988

Source

CSSCR 35 (SA)

Legislative  
Resolve No.

74



Relating to Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week.

---

### BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome is the number two cause in the United States of birth defects accompanied by mental retardation, and the only preventable one; and

WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome can result in serious health problems, such as heart defects, growth deficiencies associated with mental retardation, and developmental disabilities that retard a child's ability to walk and speak; and

WHEREAS pregnant women who consume alcohol also risk having babies with a series of other health problems, called fetal alcohol effects, which include developmental delays, learning disabilities, and increased irritability and hyperactivity; and

WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects have only recently been discovered to be a major health problem, and many questions regarding them remain unanswered; and

WHEREAS the latest research shows that children with fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects are unable to live totally independent lives; and

WHEREAS the research has also shown that additional children of a woman who has previously given birth to a child with an alcohol-related birth defect will be born with alcohol-related birth defects in successively severe degrees if the woman continues to drink during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, without exception, mothers of infants born with fetal alcohol syndrome consumed alcohol during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects can be prevented if pregnant women and women who plan to become pregnant abstain from alcohol consumption; and

WHEREAS the Surgeon General has issued an advisory that pregnant women and women who plan to become pregnant should not consume alcohol;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to proclaim May 8 - 14, 1988, Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week, and to request that schools, health care organizations and practitioners, and other public and private agencies and individuals observe the week with appropriate activities.