

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY SENATOR LINCOLN**

**Introduced: 2/15/00**

**Referred: Health, Education and Social Services**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Weeks.**

**2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**3 WHEREAS** fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects, which are birth defects  
**4** related to alcohol consumption by pregnant women, can be prevented if pregnant women and  
**5** women who plan to become pregnant abstain from alcohol consumption; and

**6 WHEREAS** fetal alcohol syndrome results in permanent growth retardation, physical  
**7** malformations, and permanent central nervous system damage, including developmental  
**8** delays, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems, and is most often accompanied by  
**9** mental retardation; and

**10 WHEREAS** pregnant women who consume alcohol also risk having children with fetal  
**11** alcohol effects, which most often include permanent developmental delays, learning  
**12** disabilities, and behavioral problems; and

**13 WHEREAS** fetal alcohol syndrome is the number one identifiable cause in the United  
**14** States of birth defects accompanied by mental retardation and the only preventable one; and

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

**17 WHEREAS** research shows that children with fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol

1 effects are often unable to live totally independent lives; and

2       **WHEREAS** research has also shown that additional children of a woman who has  
3 previously given birth to a child with an alcohol-related birth defect are most often born with  
4 alcohol-related birth defects in successively severe degrees if the woman continues to drink  
5 during her pregnancies; and

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

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

10       **WHEREAS** the division of alcohol and drug abuse, Department of Health and Social  
11 Services, will be conducting a campaign designed to increase awareness of fetal alcohol  
12 syndrome during the week of May 14 - 20, 2000; and

13       **WHEREAS** the legislature recognizes that the sobriety of fathers is also important to  
14 the well-being of their children and the healthy functioning of their families; and

15       **WHEREAS** the legislature wishes to acknowledge RurAL CAP's statewide activities  
16 against irresponsible use of alcohol during pregnancy;

17       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the  
18 Governor to proclaim both the week of Mother's Day, May 14 - 20, 2000, and the week of  
19 Father's Day, June 18 - 24, 2000, as Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Weeks and  
20 urges schools, health care organizations and practitioners, and other public and private  
21 agencies and individuals observe the weeks with appropriate activities.

22       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the governing body of each school district,  
23 the State Medical Board, the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives, the Board of Nursing,  
24 RurAL CAP, and the chief executive officer of each hospital and health clinic in the state.