

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

2001

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CSHCR 7(HES) am S

Legislative  
Resolve No.

16



Relating to proclaiming April 2001 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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

**WHEREAS** sexual assault is one of the most devastating crimes in society today; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska has the highest per capita occurrence of sexual assault in the nation; and

**WHEREAS** one in four women in America will experience sexual assault at some time in her life; and

**WHEREAS** one out of six males will be sexually assaulted by 18 years of age; and

**WHEREAS** rape is a significant problem in our prison system; and

**WHEREAS** the incidence of rape in Alaska has increased over the past year and is 2.4 times the national average; only one in eight rapes is reported, making rape the most underreported of all violent crimes; and

**WHEREAS** the division of family and youth services received 1,859 reports of child sexual abuse last year alone; and

**WHEREAS** child sexual abuse often results in exceptional trauma to the victims and in the loss of their childhood innocence; and

**WHEREAS** these statistics do not include the countless numbers of family members, loved ones, coworkers, and neighbors affected by the devastating crime of sexual assault; and

**WHEREAS** many residents of Alaska work to provide quality services and assistance to sexual assault survivors; dedicated volunteers and professionals respond to emergency calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, offering support, comfort, and advocacy throughout all stages of the recovery process, including medical examinations and criminal proceedings; and

**WHEREAS** it is vitally important that residents of Alaska continue to discuss sexual assault and its effects on our families and communities; and

**WHEREAS** it is our goal to improve Alaska's response to sexual assault and to support and enhance educational efforts to provide information about sexual assault and the services available to victim survivors and their loved ones; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska's Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention Conference, to be held this September, will benefit from the awareness brought about by Sexual Assault Awareness Month;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the governor to proclaim the month of April 2001 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges secondary schools, community organizations, and other public and private agencies and individuals to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month with suitable activities that increase the public's awareness of the prevalence of sexual assault in Alaska and how it can be combated.