

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/15/01

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES MEYER, Guess, Croft, Dyson, Cissna

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to proclaiming April 2001 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.**

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

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

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

6 **WHEREAS** one in four of our mothers, daughters, sisters, or wives will, at some
7 point, experience violence brought upon them; and

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

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

10 **WHEREAS** the incidence of rape in Alaska has increased over the past year and is
11 2.4 times the national average; only one in eight rapes are reported, making rape the most
12 underreported of all violent crimes; and

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

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

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

3 **WHEREAS** many residents of Alaska work to provide quality services and assistance
4 to sexual assault survivors; dedicated volunteers and professionals respond to emergency calls
5 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, offering support, comfort, and advocacy throughout all stages
6 of the recovery process, including medical examinations and criminal proceedings; and

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

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

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

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

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges schools, community
18 organizations, and other public and private agencies and individuals to observe Sexual Assault
19 Awareness Month with suitable activities that increase the public's awareness of the
20 prevalence of sexual assault in Alaska.