

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/9/01
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS LEMAN, Ellis

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 women in America will experience sexual assault at some
7 time in her life; and

8 **WHEREAS** the incidence of rape in Alaska has increased over the past year and is
9 2.4 times the national average; only one in eight rapes is reported, making rape the most
10 underreported of all violent crimes; and

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

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

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

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

5 **WHEREAS** it is vitally important that residents of Alaska continue to discuss sexual
6 assault and its effects; and

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

10 **WHEREAS** Alaska's Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention Conference, to be held in
11 September 2001, will benefit from the awareness brought about by Sexual Assault Awareness
12 Month;

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

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