

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCGUIRE, Samuels, Gruenberg, Anderson, Wolf, Wilson, Berkowitz, Heinze, Meyer, Gatto, Ogg

Introduced: 2/16/04

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming March 2004 as Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** brain injury is a serious, national public health epidemic affecting at least
4 5,300,000 Americans; and

5 **WHEREAS**, every 21 seconds, someone in the United States will sustain a traumatic
6 brain injury, which equals more than 4,000 people daily; and

7 **WHEREAS**, each year, at least 50,000 Americans die and 80,000 Americans
8 experience the onset of life-long disabilities as a result of sustaining a brain injury; and

9 **WHEREAS**, each year at least 600 Alaskans receive acute care for trauma related to
10 brain injuries, 150 Alaskans die from brain injury, and approximately 190 Alaskans
11 experience the beginning of life-long disabilities requiring marked adaptations to daily
12 functioning as a result of sustaining a brain injury; and

13 **WHEREAS** prevention is the only known cure, and

14 **WHEREAS** the mission of the Brain Injury Association of America is to create a
15 better future through brain injury prevention, research, education, and advocacy; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the

1 Health Resources and Services Administration, the Defense - Veterans Brain Injury Center,
2 the Brain Injury Association of America and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority strive
3 to increase brain injury awareness, thus making prevention and safety measures part of the
4 American culture in an effort to decrease the number of brain injuries;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of
6 March 2004 as Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges schools, community
8 groups, and other public and private agencies and individuals to observe Traumatic Brain
9 Injury Awareness Month with appropriate activities that increase the public's awareness of
10 traumatic brain injury, the leading causes of traumatic brain injury, and ways of preventing
11 traumatic brain injury.