

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MEYER, Fairclough, Stoltze, Neuman, Doll, Lynn, Kerttula, Samuels, Johansen, Gardner**SENATORS Wielechowski, McGuire, Elton, Stedman, Stevens, Hoffman, Dyson, French, Wagoner, Bunde, Kookesh, Ellis, Olson****Introduced: 2/12/07****Referred: Health, Education and Social Services****A RESOLUTION**1 **Relating to proclaiming April of 2007 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; and4 **WHEREAS** Alaska has the highest per capita occurrence of sexual assault in the
5 nation; and6 **WHEREAS** sexual assault affects women, children, and men of all racial, cultural,
7 and economic backgrounds; and8 **WHEREAS** one out of six women has been raped; and9 **WHEREAS** one out of 33 men has been sexually assaulted; and10 **WHEREAS** the incidence of rape in Alaska is 2.5 times the national average; and11 **WHEREAS** only one out of every six rapes is ever reported to law enforcement
12 agencies, making rape the most underreported violent crime in America; and13 **WHEREAS** child sexual abuse results in exceptional trauma to the victims and in the
14 loss of childhood innocence; and15 **WHEREAS** these statistics do not include the countless numbers of family members,
16 loved ones, co-workers, and neighbors affected by the devastating crime of sexual assault; and

1 **WHEREAS** many residents of Alaska work to provide quality services and assistance
2 to 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** building awareness that sexual assault is a problem in every Alaska
6 community and that alerting the public to services that can help victims and loved ones of
7 victims of sexual assault is a crucial component to addressing the issue; and

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

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
12 governor to proclaim the month of April 2007 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be it

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