

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/12/08

Referred: Rules

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to proclaiming April of 2008 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** sexual assault affects women, children, and men of all racial, cultural,
4 and economic backgrounds, and occurs through acquaintance rape, stranger rape, sexual
5 assault by a partner, child sexual abuse, incest, sexual harassment, prostitution, and
6 pornography; and

7 **WHEREAS** it is estimated that one in three women, one in four girls, one in six boys,
8 and one in 11 men will be victims of sexual violence; and

9 **WHEREAS** the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's privacy, dignity,
10 security, and humanity, and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars that can
11 influence every aspect of an individual's life; and

12 **WHEREAS** this state, at 2.5 times the national average, continues to have the highest
13 per capita occurrence of sexual assault in the nation, and it is important that sexual assault be
14 recognized as a preventable problem in every community, large and small, in the state;
15 speaking out against sexual assault is an important first step to eliminating this devastating
16 crime; and

1 **WHEREAS** it is also important to recognize the compassion, commitment, and
2 dedication of the individuals who provide services to sexual assault survivors and work to
3 increase public understanding of this major problem; and

4 **WHEREAS** one person, organization, agency, or community cannot by itself
5 eliminate sexual violence, and the citizens of this state need to work together to educate the
6 entire population of the state about what can be done to prevent sexual assault, to support
7 victims, survivors, and their families, and to increase support for agencies providing services
8 to these survivors; by uniting in this effort, the citizens of this state can make a difference;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of
10 April 2008 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages all of the citizens of this
11 state to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month by speaking out against sexual assault and
12 letting others know that sexual assault will not be tolerated.