

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2(2d RLS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/3/17

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATOR MEYER

REPRESENTATIVES Kawasaki, Tarr

A RESOLUTION

- 1 **Proclaiming April 2018 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; proclaiming April 2018 as**
2 **Child Abuse Prevention Month; and proclaiming April 6, 2018, as Go Blue Friday.**

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

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

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

11 **WHEREAS** results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey show an estimated
12 33.1 out of every 100 Alaska women have experienced sexual assault within their lifetime;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS** results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey reflect alcohol- or
15 drug-involved sexual violence dropped from 26.8 percent in the 2010 survey to 22.6 percent;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, despite tremendous progress, Alaska still has the highest rates of sexual

1 violence in the nation; and

2 **WHEREAS** 2,126 children were evaluated by child advocacy centers in the state for
3 possible sexual abuse last year; and

4 **WHEREAS** 1,625 adult victims of sexual assault sought services at rape crisis centers
5 in the state last year; and

6 **WHEREAS** it is important to recognize the compassion, commitment, and dedication
7 of the individuals who provide services to sexual assault survivors and work to reduce and
8 eliminate sexual violence; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, 16 communities--Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Cordova,
10 Dillingham, Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Juneau, Kodiak, Kotzebue,
11 Nome, Palmer, Seward, Unalaska, and Valdez--have sexual assault response teams to
12 investigate more effectively crimes of sexual violence; and

13 **WHEREAS** research indicates the need to develop comprehensive sexual violence
14 prevention programs that target multiple, interacting risk and protective factors in
15 behaviorally relevant ways; and

16 **WHEREAS** communities across the state are taking up the challenge, implementing
17 evidence-based prevention programs, such as Girls on the Run, Coaching Boys into Men, and
18 Green Dot Alaska; and

19 **WHEREAS**, because one person, organization, agency, or community cannot, by
20 itself, eliminate sexual violence, the citizens of Alaska need to work together to educate the
21 entire population of the state about what can be done to eliminate sexual assault; and

22 **WHEREAS** schools across the state are implementing the Fourth R-healthy
23 relationships curriculum in grades seven through nine, which has been shown to reduce
24 adherence to rape myths and to enhance social and emotional learning focusing on self-
25 management and responsible decision-making; and

26 **WHEREAS** positive healthy male role models are engaging boys through programs
27 such as COMPASS to explore and adopt concepts of masculinity that include respect for
28 women and nonviolent models of manhood; and

29 **WHEREAS** victims, survivors, and their families deserve support; by uniting in this
30 effort, the citizens of this state can make a difference; last year over 3,100 volunteers devoted
31 48,483 hours of service in the state; and

1 **WHEREAS** the state currently has one of the five highest rates of child abuse in the
2 United States; and

3 **WHEREAS** taking the life of an innocent preborn child through abortion is the
4 ultimate form of child abuse, and, in 2016, according to the Department of Health and Social
5 Services, the lives of at least 556 Alaska preborn children were taken through the State of
6 Alaska medical assistance and Denali KidCare programs; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, 75 percent of the Alaska preborn children whose lives were
8 taken through abortion whose mothers were 14 years of age or younger were taken through
9 the Denali KidCare program; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in fiscal year 2015, the Department of Health and Social Services,
11 Office of Children's Services, received more than 40,000 allegations of harm involving tens of
12 thousands of children; and

13 **WHEREAS**, for every 1,000 children in the state, 42 are victims of abuse; and

14 **WHEREAS** more than 2,000 children in the state have been removed from unsafe
15 homes and placed in foster care; and

16 **WHEREAS** child abuse and neglect leave cross-generational damage resulting in
17 approximately 30 percent of abused or neglected children who will grow up to abuse or
18 neglect their children; and

19 **WHEREAS** 36 percent of all women in prison and 14 percent of all men in prison
20 were abused or neglected as children; and

21 **WHEREAS** children who experience child abuse or neglect are about nine times
22 more likely to become involved in criminal activity than children who do not experience child
23 abuse or neglect; and

24 **WHEREAS** the long-term effects of child abuse include improper brain formation, an
25 inability to trust, low self-esteem, and an increased vulnerability to post-traumatic stress
26 disorder, sexually transmitted diseases, heart disease, cancer, and depression; and

27 **WHEREAS** every child deserves a loving family, a safe home, and the opportunity to
28 grow into an upstanding and responsible member of society; and

29 **WHEREAS** we must work together to support the efforts of all those who take
30 children into their homes and hearts because the community as a whole suffers in every case
31 of child abuse and neglect;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims April 2018 to be
2 Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages all of the residents of the state to observe
3 Sexual Assault Awareness Month by taking action to prevent sexual violence; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims April 2018 to
5 be Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims April 6, 2018,
7 as Go Blue Friday, a day to wear blue, the official color of prevention, and to work to keep
8 the state's children safe and encourages all state employees and other residents of the state to
9 participate; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports and encourages
11 all state employees and other residents of the state to support child abuse prevention and
12 education efforts.