

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BETTISWORTH

2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to publication of the identity

6

of persons charged with certain sexual

7

offenses.

8

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

9

WHEREAS the mental anguish and suffering of a victim of a sexual
10 offense is extreme enough without the added pain of facing other persons
11 who have knowledge that the victim was the target of a sexual offense; and

12 WHEREAS the news media usually recognizes the added pain associated
13 with public disclosure of the identity of the victim of a sexual offense
14 and voluntarily refrains from publishing the victim's identity; and

15 WHEREAS mere publication of the name of the perpetrator of certain
16 sexual offenses is tantamount to publication of the identity of the victim
17 because of the familial or legal relationship between the perpetrator and
18 victim, such as in prosecution under AS 11.41.410(a)(4) for sexual assault
19 in the first degree against a person under 18 years of age who is entrusted
20 to the perpetrator's care by authority of law or is the perpetrator's son
21 or daughter, or in prosecution under AS 11.41.450 for incest;

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the members of the
23 news media operating within the state are respectfully requested to con-
24 sider the impact on the victim of a sexual offense prosecuted under AS 11.-
25 41.410(a)(4) or AS 11.41.450 and to voluntarily refrain from publishing the
26 identity of the perpetrator in order to avoid inadvertent identification of
27 the victim as a consequence of familial or legal relationship.