

BY BINKLEY, KELLY, SZYMANSKI,
FISCHER, COGHILL AND
ELIASON

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to alcohol and drug education

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programs.

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

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WHEREAS residents of the state between the ages of 12 and 17 have an

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experimentation rate with marijuana that is twice the national average and

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with cocaine that is nearly three times the national average; and

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WHEREAS, according to the Alaska Medicine magazine, 72 percent of

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Alaska's young people between the ages of 12 and 17 will use alcohol; and

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WHEREAS, in the fiscal year 1989 budget, the State of Alaska appropri-

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ated nearly \$17,000,000 for alcohol and drug related programs, an amount

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that does not include money spent for programs that are not technically

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alcohol or drug related but are affected by alcohol and drug abuse in the

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state; and

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WHEREAS the amount spent for alcohol and drug programs increases

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yearly and is more than \$3,000,000 above the amount spent in fiscal year

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1988; and

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WHEREAS alcohol and drug education is generally offered in high

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schools throughout the state, but since the average age at which alcohol

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and drug experimentation starts is 11 - 12 years of age, many young people

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not yet high school age have already developed problems related to chemical

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abuse; and

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WHEREAS research has shown that a comprehensive educational program

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that takes into account the reality of young people's lifestyles may be the

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only effective prevention effort;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests

1 that each of the 55 school districts in the state develop alcohol and drug
2 education programs for their students in the higher grades of elementary
3 school and that these programs be tailored to meet the particular problems
4 of the district; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED that alcohol and drug refusal skills should be made a
6 part of each district's educational program; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct
8 the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Department of Educa-
9 tion, to work with local school districts by responding to requests for
10 information and other assistance in order to develop alcohol and drug
11 education programs for younger students.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Myra M.
13 Munson, commissioner of health and social services; the Honorable William
14 G. Demmert, commissioner of education; the members of the State Board of
15 Education, and to each school board of a school district or rural educa-
16 tional attendance area.