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1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to Alcohol-Related Birth De-

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fects Awareness Week.

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

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WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome is the number two cause in the United

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States of birth defects accompanied by mental retardation, and the only

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preventable one; and

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WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome results in permanent growth retarda-

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tion, physical malformations, and permanent central nervous system damage,

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including developmental delay, learning disabilities, and behavioral prob-

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lems, and is most often accompanied by mental retardation; and

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WHEREAS pregnant women who consume alcohol also risk having children

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with fetal alcohol effects, which most often include permanent develop-

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mental delays, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems; and

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WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects have only recently been dis-

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covered to be a major health problem, and many questions regarding them

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remain unanswered; and

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WHEREAS the latest research shows that children with fetal alcohol

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syndrome and fetal alcohol effects are often unable to live totally in-

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dependent lives; and

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WHEREAS the research has also shown that additional children of a

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woman who has previously given birth to a child with an alcohol-related

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birth defect are most often born with alcohol-related birth defects in

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successively severe degrees if the woman continues to drink during her

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pregnancies; and

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WHEREAS, without exception, mothers of infants born with fetal alcohol

1 syndrome consumed alcohol during pregnancy; and

2 WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects can be prevented if pregnant
3 women and women who plan to become pregnant abstain from alcohol consump-
4 tion; and

5 WHEREAS the Surgeon General has issued an advisory that pregnant women
6 and women who plan to become pregnant should not consume alcohol;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
8 the Governor to proclaim May 13 - 19, 1990, Alcohol-Related Birth Defects
9 Awareness Week, and to request that schools, health care organizations and
10 practitioners, and other public and private agencies and individuals ob-
11 serve the week with appropriate activities.