

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22 (HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/17/91

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES LINCOLN, Ulmer, Navarre, Koponen

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week.

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

3 WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome is the number two cause in the United States of birth defects
4 accompanied by mental retardation, and the only preventable one; and

5 WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome results in permanent growth retardation, physical
6 malformations, and permanent central nervous system damage, including developmental delay, learning
7 disabilities, and behavioral problems, and is most often accompanied by mental retardation; and

8 WHEREAS pregnant women who consume alcohol also risk having children with fetal alcohol
9 effects, which most often include permanent developmental delays, learning disabilities, and behavioral
10 problems; and

11 WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects have only recently been discovered to be a major health
12 problem, and many questions regarding them remain unanswered; and

13 WHEREAS the latest research shows that children with fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol
14 effects are often unable to live totally independent lives; and

15 WHEREAS the research has also shown that additional children of a woman who has previously
16 given birth to a child with an alcohol-related birth defect are most often born with alcohol-related birth
17 defects in successively severe degrees if the woman continues to drink during her pregnancies; and

1 **WHEREAS**, without exception, mothers of infants born with fetal alcohol syndrome consumed
2 alcohol during pregnancy; and

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

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

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature designates May 12 - 18, 1991, as Alcohol-
8 Related Birth Defects Awareness Week, and urges schools, health care organizations and practitioners,
9 and other public and private agencies and individuals observe the week with appropriate activities.

10 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the governing body of each school district and the
11 chief executive officer of each hospital and health clinic in the state.