

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES LINCOLN, Ellis, Ulmer, B.Davis, Kubina, Bruckman, Parnell, Koponen, Leman, Navarre**

**Introduced: 2/18/92**  
**Referred: State Affairs**

**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 and fetal alcohol effects, which are birth defects related to**  
**4 alcohol consumption by pregnant women, can be prevented if pregnant women and women who plan**  
**5 to become pregnant abstain from alcohol consumption; and**

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

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

**12 WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome is the number one identifiable cause in the United States of**  
**13 birth defects accompanied by mental retardation, and the only preventable one; and**

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

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

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

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

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

8       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to  
9 proclaim May 10 - 16, 1992, as Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week, and urges schools,  
10 health care organizations and practitioners, and other public and private agencies and individuals observe  
11 the week with appropriate activities.

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