

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR STURGULEWSKI

Introduced: 2/19/91
Referred: State Affairs and Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to S.15, a federal bill against violence to women.

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

3 WHEREAS three out of four women in the United States will be victims of at least one violent
4 crime during their lifetimes; and

5 WHEREAS the most serious crimes against women are rising at a significantly faster rate than
6 the rate of total crime, and rape rates have risen nearly four times as fast as the total crime rate during
7 the past decade; and

8 WHEREAS in the United States between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 women are beaten each year
9 and a woman is beaten by her spouse or partner every 18 seconds; and

10 WHEREAS the rate of assaults against young women has jumped by 48 percent, while for men
11 of the same age group it has decreased by 12 percent; and

12 WHEREAS the rape rate in the state is one and one-half times the national rate; and

13 WHEREAS the state's domestic violence and sexual assault programs have seen a 23 percent
14 increase in the number of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and a 44 percent increase in
15 shelter nights in the past three years; and

16 WHEREAS last year alone there was a 27 percent increase in domestic violence cases brought

1 before the district courts of the state; and

2 **WHEREAS** on January 14, 1991, S.15, the Violence Against Women Act of 1991, was
3 introduced into the United States Senate to combat violence and crimes against women on streets and
4 in homes; and

5 **WHEREAS** S.15 provides national leadership and funding for increased efforts by prosecutors,
6 police, public safety departments, shelters, and rape crisis centers to provide effective prevention,
7 intervention, and response to this growing national problem.

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature declares its support for S.15, the Violence
9 Against Women Act of 1991, and urges the United States Congress to enact it into law in order to
10 combat the growing national problem of violence against women.

11 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the
12 United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S.
13 House of Representatives; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on the
14 Judiciary; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
15 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.