

**CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18 (JUDICIARY)**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 3/21/91**  
**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): SENATOR STURGULEWSKI**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to federal legislation 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** from 1974 to 1987 the national rate of assaults against young women jumped by  
**11 48 percent, while for men of the same age group it 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; and

8       **WHEREAS** on February 21, 1991, S.472, a bill that includes the Domestic Violence Prevention  
9 Act of 1991, was introduced into the United States Senate to improve the reporting of sexual assaults  
10 at school campuses, to increase the penalties for recidivist sex offenders, and to create a national task  
11 force on violence against women.

12       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature declares its support for prompt action by  
13 the United States Congress to enact comprehensive legislation to combat domestic and other violence  
14 against women, and urges the United States Congress to enact legislation encompassing the best and  
15 most enlightened provisions of both S.15 and S.472 in order to combat the growing national problem  
16 of violence against women.

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