

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

BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**Offered: 4/17/91
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 is a comprehensive bill to address domestic violence and provides national
6 leadership and funding for increased efforts by prosecutors, police, public safety departments, shelters,
7 and rape crisis centers to provide effective prevention, intervention, and response to this growing national
8 problem; and

9 **WHEREAS** on February 21, 1991, S.472, a bill that in part addresses the problem of domestic
10 violence was introduced into the United States Senate to improve the reporting of sexual assaults at
11 school campuses, fund education grants to reduce domestic violence and to create a national task force
12 on violence against women.

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature declares its support for prompt action by
14 the United States Congress to enact comprehensive legislation to combat domestic and other violence
15 against women, and urges the United States Congress to enact legislation encompassing the best and
16 most enlightened provisions of both S.15 and Sec. 201 and Secs. 241 - 272 of S.472 in order to combat
17 the growing national problem of violence against women.

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