

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31 am S
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES NICHOLIA, Ulmer, Brice, Brown, Bunde, Davidson, B.Davis, G.Davis, Hoffman, James, Kott, Larson, Menard, Navarre, Nordlund, Olberg, Parnell, Sitton, Toohey, Williams, Sanders, Porter, Green

SENATORS Leman, Lincoln, Duncan, Kerttula, Ellis, Zharoff, Little, Pearce, Donley, Kelly, Rieger, Salo

Amended: 5/9/94
Introduced: 2/2/94

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
4 related to alcohol consumption by pregnant women, can be prevented if pregnant women and
5 women who plan 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
8 delays, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems, and is most often accompanied by
9 mental retardation; and

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS the latest research shows that children with fetal alcohol syndrome and

1 fetal alcohol effects are often unable to live totally independent lives; and

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

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

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

10 **WHEREAS** the division of alcohol and drug abuse, Department of Health and Social
11 Services, will be conducting a statewide campaign designed to increase awareness of fetal
12 alcohol syndrome during the week of May 22 - 28, 1994;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
14 Governor to proclaim May 22 - 28, 1994, as Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week,
15 and urges schools, health care organizations and practitioners, and other public and private
16 agencies and individuals observe the week with appropriate activities.

17 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the governing body of each school district,
18 the State Medical Board, the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives, the Board of Nursing,
19 and the chief executive officer of each hospital and health clinic in the state.