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POSITION PAPER

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

"Requesting the Governor to proclaim a Declaration of War on Crime in Alaska."

The Department of Health and Social Services supports Senate Resolution No. 7 as we believe it could heighten citizen awareness of the problem of crime in Alaska. We commend the drafters of the resolution for recognizing the need for a broad social approach which encompasses enforcement, local autonomy, prevention and education. By implication, the resolution appears to support the Alaska State Constitution requirement that "penal administration shall be based on the principle of reformation and upon the need of protecting the public."

The Department welcomes the opportunity to work with the Governor and the Legislature on the critical problem of violence in our state. We recently held a Rural Violence Prevention Conference in which virtually all areas of rural Alaska were represented. Although no easy solutions were reached, the one unanimous conclusion made was that no area of the state is immune for the adverse effects of violence and the problems that it places on quality of life in our communities.

Our Department stands ready to assist in any possible way to facilitate the operations of a War on Crime. We realize that by working together with the court, public safety, medical community, education and research entities, legal professionals, local government, and nature organizations, we may gain foothold into permanent solution to this persistent problem.

Recommended by: R.L.C. by Serge Mendel  
Robert Cole, Coordinator  
Office of Alcoholism &  
Drug Abuse

Date: 5/12/81

Approved by: H.D. Peirne  
Helen D. Peirne, Commissioner  
Dept. of Health & Social  
Services

Date: 5/12/81