

SCR

45

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCHY - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

SCR. 45

H. HESS

4/12/90

H HESS

4/17/90

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: March 5, 1990

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/17/90

The HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: SCR 45

SENATE CONCURRENT RES. NO. 45 MEDICAL EDUCATION/FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

Relating to medical education about fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- [] be replaced with _____ [] the same title
- [] a new title
- [] have attached amendment(s)
- [X] do pass
- [] do not pass
- [] no recommendation
- [] individual recommendations
- [] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

(Date/Dept)

- [] fiscal impact _____
- [] zero fiscal note _____
- [] zero with analysis _____

- [] fiscal note(s) _____
- [X] zero fiscal note(s) 2/27/90/DHSS
- [] zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

Do Not Pass No Rec Amend

J. Ellis

John Jones

Dr. Grossberg

Chris Davis

Marc Boyer

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend

J. Ellis

Chairman's Signature

-POSITION PAPER

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45

"Relating to medical education about fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects."

BACKGROUND

SCR 45 encourages the Alaska State Medical Association and the Alaska State Nurses Association to make available courses for continuing-education credits and to encourage courses to be offered in the area of alcohol-related birth defects.

Many women believe that physicians are the best and most credible source of health information. Research findings on whether health professionals have the information they need regarding the dangers of drinking while pregnant or whether they view it as their task to impart such information to their patients and clients is ambivalent. Some research indicates many physicians and other practitioners appear reluctant to inform their patients that the safest choice is to avoid drinking during pregnancy.

POSITION:

Experience has shown that extensive and intensive professional training is essential if the pregnant drinker is to be identified accurately and treated effectively. Such training has been shown to increase physician's effectiveness in preventing pregnant women from abusing alcohol during pregnancy and to improve the physician's intervention skills.

The Department of Health and Social Services supports SCR 45.

Recommended by:

Sally Mead
Sally Mead, Coordinator
Office of Prevention

Date:

Approved by:

Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health and
Social Services

Date:

2/15/90



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

SENATE

Committee on Finance

P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MEMORANDUM

April 10, 1990

TO: Representative Johnny Ellis, Chairman
House Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator John Binkley *John Binkley*

RE: SCR 45 - Medical Education about FAS and FAE

SCR 45 asks the Alaska State Medical Association and the Alaska Nurses Association to encourage and assist organizations that provide continuing medical education in the area of alcohol-related birth defects.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome was identified in medical research in 1973, and since 1981 the Surgeon General of the United States and the American Medical Association have advised pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women who plan to become pregnant to completely abstain from alcohol. The medical community, however, has sometimes been slow to catch up with this advice, and even today we have physicians in Alaska who are advising patients that small amounts of alcohol will help them relax.

The resolution has a -0- fiscal note and is supported by the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska State Medical Association, and the Health Association of Alaska. In response to introduction of this resolution, the Alaska State Medical Association is working to include Fetal Alcohol Syndrome as a part of their Continuing Education Effort at the annual convention this June.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Relating to Medical Education
about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome . . .
 Sponsor: Binkley
 Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
 BRU: _____
 Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
----------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
----------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

FY 90 fiscal impact is "0."

Prepared by: Sally Head
 Division: Office of Prevention

Phone: 561-4211
 Date: _____

Approved by Commissioner: *Myra M. Munson*
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Date: 2/12/90

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Relating to Medical Education
about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome . . .
 Sponsor: Binkley
 Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
 BRU: _____
 Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

FY 90 fiscal impact is "0."

Prepared by: Sally Head
 Division: Office of Prevention

Phone: 561-4211

Date: _____

Approved by Commissioner: *Myra M. Munson*
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Date: 2/12/90

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

POSITION PAPER

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45

"Relating to medical education about fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects."

BACKGROUND

SCR 45 encourages the Alaska State Medical Association and the Alaska State Nurses Association to make available courses for continuing-educator credits and to encourage courses to be offered in the area of alcohol-related birth defects.

Many women believe that physicians are the best and most credible source of health information. Research findings on whether health professionals have the information they need regarding the dangers of drinking while pregnant or whether they view it as their task to impart such information to their patients and clients is ambivalent. Some research indicates many physicians and other practitioners appear reluctant to inform their patients that the safest choice is to avoid drinking during pregnancy.

POSITION:

Experience has shown that extensive and intensive professional training is essential if the pregnant drinker is to be identified accurately and treated effectively. Such training has been shown to increase physician's effectiveness in preventing pregnant women from abusing alcohol during pregnancy and to improve the physician's intervention skills.

The Department of Health and Social Services supports SCR 45.

Recommended by:

Sally Mead
Sally Mead, Coordinator
Office of Prevention

Date:

Approved by:

Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health and
Social Services

Date:

2/15/90

health
association
of alaska

319 Seward St., Juneau, Alaska 99801 • (907) 586-1790

FAX (907) 463-3573

REPRESENTING ACUTE, LONG TERM AND OUTPATIENT FACILITIES

Chairman of the Board
C. Keith Campbell
Seward General Hospital

Chairman Elect
Ed Malewski
Sitka Community Hospital

Immediate Past Chairman
Jim Gingerich
Fairbanks Memorial
Hospital

Secretary/Treasurer
Sister Dona Taylor
Providence Hospital
Anchorage

Delegate to the American
Hospital Association
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Humboldt Hospital
Anchorage

Alternate Delegate to the
American Hospital Assoc.
Ed Zeine
Cordova Community
Hospital

Delegate to the American
Health Care Association
Mary of Compassion
Care Center
Anchorage

Alternate Delegate to the
American Health Care
Mark Bertirud
Dsnail Center
Fairbanks

Delegate to the Healthcare
Forum
John Vowell
Wrangell General Hospital

Delegate to Congress of
Hospital Trustees
Jan Tretner
Seward General Hospital

Government Institutions
Representative
Frank Sutton
Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital
Sitka

Outpatient Facilities
Representative
John J. Conway
Veterans Administration
Anchorage

President/CEO
Harlan R. Knudson

February 23, 1990

Senator John Binkley
Alaska State Senate
Legislative Building
Juneau, AK 99811

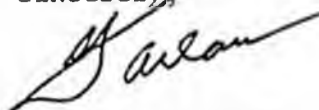
RE: Support SCR 45

Dear Senator Binkley:

The Health Association of Alaska, representing community hospitals and nursing homes, would like to lend its endorsement and support for SCR 45, recommending continuing education programs on fetal alcohol syndrome.

Hospitals will assist in sponsoring and having appropriate personnel attend.

Sincerely,



Harlan R. Knudson
President/CEO

FDA Drug Bulletin

Surgeon General's Advisory
on Alcohol and Pregnancy

Information of Importance
To Physicians and
Other Health Professionals

Surgeon General's Advisory on Alcohol and Pregnancy

The Surgeon General advises women who are pregnant (or considering pregnancy) not to drink alcoholic beverages and to be aware of the alcoholic content of foods and drugs.

A recent report to the President and Congress¹ summarizes current scientific knowledge about health hazards associated with alcohol consumption, including those during pregnancy. The report concludes that alcohol consumption during pregnancy, especially in the early months, can harm the fetus.

Among the findings of the report are the following:

- Significantly decreased birth weight has been observed among the children of some women who average only one ounce of absolute alcohol (two standard drinks) per day during pregnancy.²
- Sizeable and significant increases in spontaneous abortions have been observed at reported alcohol consumption levels as low as one ounce of absolute alcohol twice a week.^{3,4}
- A woman who consumes alcohol at amounts consistent with a diagnosis of alcoholism risks bearing a child with a specific cluster of severe physical and mental defects known as the fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) (See September-October 1977 *Drug Bulletin*). This syndrome of birth defects is frequently associated with mental retardation, and is also characterized by central nervous system disorders, growth deficiencies, a specific cluster of facial abnormalities, and other malformations, particularly skeletal, urogenital, and cardiac. Many

of these characteristics are individually subtle but are readily apparent to trained dysmorphologists.

• Even if she does not bear a child with full FAS, a woman who drinks heavily is more likely to bear a child with one or more of the birth defects included in the syndrome. Microcephaly, which is associated with mental impairment, is one of the more common of these defects.

The reported effects on pregnancy outcome appear to be independent of potentially confounding variables including nutrition and smoking.

In addition, it has been demonstrated that alcohol readily enters breast milk and thus is available to the nursing infant. Alcohol consumption is known to decrease the mother's milk.

Research to establish the mechanisms by which alcohol consumption affects fetal and neonatal growth and development is underway.

Health professionals are urged to inquire routinely about alcohol consumption by patients who are pregnant or considering pregnancy. This information should be included in their medical records.

Each patient should be told about the risk of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and advised to not drink alcoholic beverages and to be aware of the alcoholic content of foods and drugs.

Interested practitioners can obtain material about techniques for obtaining

accurate drinking information from patients, as well as written material for pregnant patients, by contacting the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol Information (NCALI).^{5,6}

References:

1. *Report to the President and Congress on Health Hazards Associated with Alcohol and Methods to Inform the General Public of these Hazards*. U.S. Department of the Treasury and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Nov. 1980. Available for \$4.25 from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
2. Little RE. Moderate alcohol use during pregnancy and decreased infant birth rate. *Am J Public Health* 67: 1154, 1977.
3. Kline J, Shrivastava P, Swain Z et al: *Lancet*, 2: 176, 1980.
4. Harlap S and Shiono PH: Alcohol, smoking and incidence of spontaneous abortions in first and second trimester. *Lancet*, 2: 189, 1980.
5. Sokol RJ and Miller SI: Identifying the alcohol abusing obstetric/gynecologic patient: a practical approach. In *Alcohol Health and Research World*, 4: 36-40, 1980. Available as document RPO 238 from NCALI, P.O. Box 2343, Rockville, MD 20852.
6. *Alcohol and Your Unborn Baby*, Pub. No. PH-90, NIAAA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.