

HCR

24

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WHILE IN SESSION  
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# ALASKA STATE HOUSE

CHAIR  
RULES COMMITTEE

JUDICIARY

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE & TOURISM

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNY ELLIS

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Representatives Georgianna Lincoln and Pat Carney, co-chairs  
House Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Rep. Johnny Ellis, Chair  
House Rules Committee

RE: Scheduling Adolescent Parent and Teen Pregnancy bills

DATE: April 26, 1991

Thank you for scheduling House Bills 253, 254 and 255, as well as House Concurrent Resolution 24 for a hearing before your committee. I am presenting these as a package from the 1990 Alaska Adolescent Parent and Teen Pregnancy Task Force. As Co-Chair of the Task Force, I studied the complex problem of adolescent pregnancy in Alaska and looked for ways to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy and its social and economic effects. Representative Cheri Davis was a member of the task force and is the sponsor of three additional bills which will come to your committee. The amount of teen pregnancies in Alaska is troubling:

Three teens give birth to babies every day in Alaska.

Alaska was ranked 7th in the nation for the percent of teen pregnancies per capita.

Below is a summary of the legislation.

- HCR 24** A resolution requesting the University of Alaska to compile information relating to adolescent pregnancy and parenthood and its social and economic effects.
- HB 253** Expands the education and training program to open up the current training for employees of licensed day care centers, to include employees of unlicensed day care centers as well as parents.
- HB 254** Requires the Dept. of Health & Social Services to provide for case management for adolescent parents and pregnant adolescents who are not eligible for similar services under Medicaid.
- HB 255** Requires the Dept. of Health & Social Services to provide support to encourage school districts and municipalities to implement peer counseling groups.

I hope you will share in my support for this legislation.





# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HESS  
committee name  
 committee on HCR-24, dated May 2, '91  
bill/subject

The March 1991 issue of  
 "The American Journal of Public Health"  
 in an article entitled, "Impact of the  
 Minnesota Parental Notification Law on  
 Abortion and birth" states that the  
 abortion rate fell 28% after the  
 enactment of a parental notification law  
 in Minnesota in 1981.

Please include studies from Minnesota  
 and Illinois for they have spent years and

Signed: Cerylyn Oines  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
2414 HPR, Sitka, AK  
Address  
747-6732  
Phone No.

Much money on the very issues Alaska  
is concerned about new,  
Thank you.

Coralyn Oines  
Testimony continued



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House  
HESS, ~~XXXXXX~~  
 committee name

committee on HB 255, dated 5-2-91  
 bill/subject

My name is Gerald Sexton, I am a Natural Helper in Sitka, AK. Another important item I neglected to talk about was the "Contact Log" sheet that we use to keep track of the people we help. The log sheet runs the gamut from contacts with people requesting help about their parents beating them to people who just needed hugs. In all, the log sheets categorizes the contacts we have made and keeps track of the choices made by the helper as a result. For example if a girl comes up to me and asks my help regarding what she should do if she thought she might be pregnant. Myself, obviously not having a PhD in Biology, cannot do anything directly. Instead I would refer her to a doctor she could go to, or to Planned Parenthood. I would advise her about the realities of getting pregnant: cost ( \$2,000 - \$19,000 minimum), responsibility (immeasurable), and the time involved (time lost in school, work). Another important factor, especially if this hypothetical girl did become pregnant would be

Signed: Gerald Sexton  
 Testifier

Sitka Natural Helpers - Sitka Teen Resource Center  
 Representing (Optional)

40 Box 1034 Sitka  
 Address

747-3500  
 Phone No.

to inform her in an unbiased, manner of some choices she could make and let her come to her own decision. Some choices could be natural birth, abortion or adoption. These days, abortion is<sup>a</sup> highly emotion topic and its important to make information readily available on both sides of the issue so a teen can make a decision based on information and not just emotions or other people's moral judgements.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House  
HESS, Finance  
 committee name

committee on HB 255, dated 5-2-91  
 bill/subject

Being a Natural Helper isn't Always helping somebody. Sitka's Natural Helpers program is housed in the Sitka Teen Resource Center. It's a place to go to find help for yourself also. We address a lot of problems in school, such as sexual abuse, mental and physical abuse. If you have been kicked out of your house, etc... These common problems can lead to some very devastating outcomes. Being a Natural Helper you learn more things about yourself. You study warning signs for other problems and you feel like you were there for them when they need you.

Signed: Doug Helem  
 Testifier

Sitka Natural Helpers - Sitka Teen Resource Center  
 Representing (Optional)

805 Sirstad St.  
 Address

7-2752  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House  
HESS, ~~Lance~~  
 committee name

committee on HB 255, dated 5-2-91  
 bill/subject

Please See  
 ATTACHED  
 Testimony

Signed: Sharon Ramsay  
 Testifier

Sitka Natural Helpers - Sitka Teen Resource Center  
 Representing (Optional)

40 Box 1034 Sitka, AK  
 Address

747-4884  
 Phone No.

Sharon  
Ramsay

I as a Natural Helper and Peer counselor encourage the spreading of this program to other parts of Alaska especially to the smaller villages. Personally I am called alot at home and pulled aside in the hallway and in the classroom and more so in the bathroom or at lunch time by my peers who are friends and acquaintances who need advice or a listening ear.

Problems vary - my main contact is with teens living on the edge, using and abusing drugs, very sexually active and are being abused at home.

Teens that think about suicide ending their lives due to home situation or pregnancy.

I have given advice that was very useful and I can say because of my knowledge and education from training at Natural Helpers meetings, we have changed minds for the better for teens living on the edge.

Regarding teen pregnancies I need to say prevention is not going to be easy with out education. Maybe the Natural Helpers could have a day or a week at school to disperse into classrooms and inform peers on what they're really getting involved with choosing to get pregnant or deciding on keeping the baby. Male & Female responsibilities and consequences that follow pregnancies.

Most importantly I've learned from myself and others that why we want babies is because we want to be loved and accepted. We want something of our own to nurture that no one can take away.

There's reasons for every decision we make.

Please consider the need for more education and permission for training in the area of pregnancies!

# Adolescent Pregnancy Bills By Rep. Johnny Ellis

**Last** year, Senator Drue Pearce and Rep. Johnny Ellis were Co-Chairs of Alaska's Adolescent Parent and Teen Pregnancy Task Force. Together they studied the complex problem of adolescent pregnancy in Alaska and looked for ways to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy and its social and economic effects. The statistics of teen pregnancy are startling.

**Three** teens give birth to babies every day in Alaska.

**Alaska** was ranked 7th in the nation for the percent of teen pregnancies per capita.

**The** members of the task force recognize that the situation of teen pregnancy is neither new nor unique to Alaska, and that solutions are not readily available. We also recognize that family and cultural values are important and should be preserved to the greatest extent possible.

**When** one considers that federal, state, and local governments pay more than \$51 million dollars a year to support needy families of Alaska mothers who had children when they were teenagers, the cost of implementing the legislation recommended by the task force seems miniscule in comparison.

## House & Senate Companion Legislation

SB 169 = HB 254 by Ellis • Case Management services

SB 170 = HB 243 By C. Davis • Teen Pregnancy Prevention

SB 171 = HB 253 by Ellis • Training for Child Care Workers

SB 172 = HB 255 by Ellis • Peer Counseling Program/Teen Health

SB 173 = HB 241 by C. Davis • Grants to schools for day care

SB 174 • (no companion) State Aid for School Health Clinics

SB 175 = HB 242 by C. Davis • Teen Health Care Services

SB 176 = HB 7 by Boyer • Public School Health & Safety Education

SCR 15 = HCR 24 by Ellis • Research Reports on Teen Pregnancy

SCR 16 (no companion) • Teen focus by children/youth commission

**House Bills sponsored by Reps. Ellis, Boyer, C. Davis**

**All Senate Bills sponsored by Sen. Pearce**



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## RECOMMENDATION:

Develop a report on the costs of supporting adolescents and their offspring as compared to the costs of preventing adolescent pregnancies.

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### Issue

Both the causes and effects of adolescent pregnancy and parenting are complex and far reaching. The state must examine not only the costs of preventing adolescent pregnancy and supporting adolescent parents, but must also examine the costs of not preventing these pregnancies and the generational cycle of poverty thus created.

### Implementation

- 1) Request that the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) establish and maintain a body of statistical information assessing the costs to the state of adolescent pregnancies in Alaska compared to the estimated cost of preventing these pregnancies and of promoting healthy life-styles in existent adolescent parent families.
- 2) Request that ISER prepare an initial report which projects comparative financial costs and social implications into the next century (at least a 10 year projection). Data should be maintained in such a way as to allow for the timely update of reports.

### Cost

ISER estimates that the cost of this report would be approximately \$75,000.

### Benefits

The development of a comparative costs report would: 1) provide justification for state expenditures; 2) provide standards for the measurement of program effectiveness; and 3) provide data for public information and support of programs.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT**

(7)

Date Referred: April 3, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 05/03/91

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HCR 24

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

RESEARCH REPORTS ON TEEN PREGNANCY

Requesting the University of Alaska to compile certain types of information relating to adolescent pregnancy and parenthood.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_  the same title  
 a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): \_\_\_\_\_ (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: \_\_\_\_\_ (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Phyllis Davis</i>	✓				
<i>Betty Davis</i>	✓	<i>J. G. Long</i>		✓	
<i>John Long</i>	✓				

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCR 24

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: University of Alaska  
 Title: Requesting the University of Alaska to compile certain types BRU: UAA Organized Research  
 of Information relating to adolescent pregnancy & parenthood Component:  
 Sponsor: Reps. Ella, C. Davis and Ulmer  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_ Component Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97
GENERAL FUND	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>

POSITIONS:	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)  
 Cost to establish data base and provide analysis for public policy review.

Prepared by: Marsha A. Hubbard  
 Division: Statewide Budget Office

Phone: 474-7593  
 Date: 4/29/91

Approved by: Brian Rogers, Vice President for Finance  
 Agency: University of Alaska

Date: 4/29/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

*FN 75.0 UNIV.*