

HCR

11

House District 36
Alaina
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Aniak
Anvik
Arctic Village
Peaver
Bettles
Birch Creek
Canyon Village
Central
Chalkyitsik
Chicken
Chistochina
Chitina
Chuathbaluk
Circle
Circle Hot Springs
Coldfoot
Copper Center
Copperville
Crooked Creek
Dot Lake
Dry Creek
Eagle
Eagle Village
Evansville
Fort Yukon
Gakona
Galena
Gravling
Gulkana
Healy Lake
Holy Cross
Hughes
Huslia
Kaltag
Koyukuk
Lime Village
Livengood
Lake Minchumina
Lower Kalskag
Manley
Marshall
McCarthy
McGrath
McDra
Mentasta
Minto
Nabesna
Nenana
Nikolai
Northway
Nulato
Pilot Station
Rampart
Red Devil
Ruby
Russian Mission
Shageluk
Slana
Sleetmute
Stevens Village
Stony River
Taketna
Tanacross
Tanana
Telida
Terlin
Tok
Tulaksak
Tyonek
Upper Kalskag
Venette
Wiseman

Representative Irene K. Nicholia

State Capitol • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: 465-4527 FAX: 465-2294

*Resources
Community and Regional Affairs
International Trade and Tourism*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Jeannette James
Chair, House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Irene Nicholia *Irene*

DATE: February 21, 1995

RE: Scheduling of HCR 11

I would like to request a hearing on HCR 11, Designating March 1995 as Sobriety Awareness Month, in the House State Affairs Committee.

It is important that this resolution pass through both the House and the Senate in a timely manner, as this proclamation will be carried by Ramy Brooks in this years Iditarod race beginning March 5.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter, and I look forward to working with the State Affairs Committee on HCR 11.

Thank you.

Carving Bill 4527 Deborah Osterdorff

House District 38

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Community and
International Trade

House Concurrent Resolution 11

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HCR 11 designates the month of March as Sobriety Awareness Month, commonly referred to as "SAM."

The problems of drug and alcohol abuse in Alaska are very serious. Our social and criminal-justice systems are heavily impacted by people who are abusing alcohol and drugs.

The Alaska Federation of Natives is asking the State to begin taking a positive, proactive role toward promoting sobriety. HCR 11 is a formal statement from the Legislature recognizing those individuals who have chosen to lead a sober lifestyle, and supporting the goals of the Alaska Federation of Natives Sobriety Movement (AFNSM).

The AFNSM Council and the 55 AFNSM charter groups and honor societies have adopted a similar resolution designating March as Sobriety Awareness Month. The Movement has identified the ABC's of sobriety as: a) To improve the quality of life and health of individuals, families and communities; b) To reduce the incidences of alcohol and drug related crimes, and; c) To reduce the burden of local, state, and federal government exhaustion of resources to pay for the problems caused by substance abuse. The attached information further explains the path of the AFNSM for this effort.

It is incumbent upon the State to become more involved in promoting sobriety. We can begin this process by supporting the work of the AFNSM and passing HCR 11.

Thank you for your consideration.

News

Sobriety: A solution as easy as the ABC's

COMMENTARY from the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Without argument the resultant problems of substance abuse (alcohol and drug) have resolutely been identified by government agencies for decades. Three questions we, as Alaskans and as a society, must concern ourselves with are: "What is the best method of approach to solving the problems of substance abuse? Is it better to maintain a status quo of focusing on the problems of substance abuse? Or, is it better to focus on the merits of a common, yet identifiable, solution?" For the AFNSM Sobriety Movement (AFNSM), it is the latter.

The principle strategy for solving the indisputable problems of substance abuse have been met mostly from the vantage point of "naming" positions and programs after the problem, e.g., Alcohol Counselor, Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, Alcohol Awareness Month, etc.,.

By virtue of these titles, although well intentioned, give more attention to a commodity and its abuses than to advocating or creating unanimity of purpose to a com-

mon solution which results in socially appropriate behaviors and choices.

Behaviors and choices which empower people to nurture what AFNSM has identified as the ABC's: a) To improve the quality of life and health of individuals, families and communities; b) To reduce the incidences of alcohol and drug related crimes; c) To reduce the burden of local, state and federal government to exhaust their resources to pay for the problems caused by substance abuse.

Aside from AFNSM, its 55 Charter Groups and Honor Societies (two of which are the National Family Partnership and its affiliate Alaskans for Drug-Free Youth), no other agency in the field of prevention, has identified or advocated head-on the particular lifestyle known as sobriety, lifestyle known, shared and practiced by millions of Americans.

It is so easy to talk for granted, that, while our society is in the grip of dealing with the problems of substance abuse, there is a segment of our populous who live under the banner and lifestyle of sobriety. Curiously, this populous is not

crowding our prison system; nor, are their children crowding the juvenile and justice system. These are people, neighbors even, who represent a segment of our society who are unseen, unheard and unappreciated by the grandiose institutions and positions we have created - and for reason felt it noble to name after - to deal with the pervasive problems of substance abuse.

For AFNSM the optimum word is sobriety. It refers to a lifestyle: a positive, healthy and productive way of life, free from the devastating effects of alcohol and drugs.

Prevention, on the other hand, although an intricate part of sobriety, only refers to the task(s) in which attain or maintain sobriety. The sooner we understand this, the sooner we will come to appreciate the difficult role and responsibility we, as a society, have to reinforce a lifestyle which empowers and nurtures the "ABC's" identified by AFNSM into becoming a reality.

The current mind-set within the "prevention field" is so rigid in its bureaucracy that it is hard to see them openly acknowledge that AFNSM's definition of sobriety

has a lot to do with why they even exist. Which brings up a very important point.

That is, AFNSM is not the sobriety movement, per se. The sobriety movement is, and can be construed as, the culmination of effort of every public and private agency affected by and working toward the prevention of substance abuse. Only these public and private agencies do not realize this, yet. Because they have not yet fully ascribed to or taken public ownership of sobriety as a solution, in so much as they have taken public ownership of only identifying substance abuse as a problem. Identifying a problem is only half the answer.

Meanwhile, until the time that more prevention programs begin accepting sobriety in their public vocabularies, AFNSM will continue to collect sobriety pledge signatures and give them to an Iditarod Musher to carry up to Nome; not so much for their symbolic value, as much as a way to pay homage to the thousands of men, women and children, who are already doing their part to accomplish the aforementioned ABC's.

Mr. Nickoly Etyne, a Chukchi (Eskimo) for the Northeastern region of Siberia, who has been identified as the Iditarod Musher to carry AFNSM's sobriety signatures to Nome this year, has given AFNSM an opportunity to share its message internationally.

Mr. Remy Brooks, an Athabascan Indian from Fairbanks, who was later found out to be also racing in this year's Iditarod has pledged his full support in the effort to ensuring that the signatures make it to Nome.

Before the "sobriety movement" was ever identified, we, as a society, judged ourselves by our intentions to support those who live what AFNSM defines as sobriety. However, we cannot escape our actions or ineptitude to socially and publicly identify, reward and reinforce sobriety as a socially acceptable and appropriate lifestyle.

This March, we, as a society, with prevention field looking on, have an opportunity to "walk our talk" as an Iditarod Musher(s) takes AFNSM's sobriety signatures to Nome.

It is as easy as ABC; wait and see.

HCR 11

AFNSM JOURNAL

Volume 1 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 1995

SOBRIETY: A POSITIVE, HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE WAY OF LIFE...

For AFNSM SAM is MARCH

During a planned statewide call-in teleconference, Tuesday, January 31, 1995, in an unprecedented move to focus more on the solution rather than the problem. The AFN Sobriety Movement (AFNSM) Council, its Charter Groups & Honor Societies (CGHS), passed AFNSM resolution 95-01 designating the month of March as Sobriety Awareness Month (SAM); calling for the AFN Board of Directors, the 19th Alaska State Legislature and Honorable Governor Tony Knowles to proclaim March as Sobriety Awareness Month.

Having March known as SAM will generate the much needed recognition of the thousands of men, women and children whose sobriety signatures will travel on the Iditarod trail in Nicokoly Etyne's dog sled, a Chukchi Eskimo from the Northeastern region of Siberia. Also, it will generate greater appreciation to the merits of sobriety which are resultant in what AFNSM identifies as the ABC's: a) To improve the quality of life and health of individuals, families and communities; b) To reduce the incidences of alcohol and drug related crimes; c) To reduce the burden on local, state and federal governments to exhaust their resources on the problems caused by alcohol and drug abuse.

It is so easy to forget or take for granted that, while our society is in the grip of



Our Symbol: The raven is a spiritual creature, representing the creator. The figures sheltered by its wings represent the people standing together for a purpose.

dealing with the problems of alcohol and drug abuse, that there is a segment of our society who live under the banner and lifestyle of sobriety. Curiously, this segment of our society is not crowding our prison system; nor, are they or their children crowding the justice system. These are people, neighbors even, who are unseen, unheard and unappreciated by the institutions and positions - and for some reason felt it noble to name after - who deal with only the problems of substance abuse. Having a month known as SAM could change all that.

Congressional Senators & AK Senate President back AFNSM

US Alaskan Congressional Senators Stevens and Murkowski, and Alaska Senate President Drue Pearce, backed AFNSM's plea to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to write a personal letter in support and in recognition of AFNSM's efforts to: 1) become non-dependent of state & federal subsidies; 2) honor thousands of people whose sobriety signatures are being carried on the Iditarod trail; 3) further what AFNSM identifies as the ABC's.

If, and when, Mrs. Clinton's letter is received it will be carried on the Iditarod trail in this years Iditarod.

Inside This Issue

1&2 SAM is MARCH; Senators back AFNSM

3&4 AkANG & AFNSM work together

5&6 ACC; AFNSM Iditapledge Kick-off

7&8 Native Inmates; Teleconference 2/14-3pm

9 KTBV FOX 4 Kids Club - Blanket Toss

Position Paper
HCR 11
Sobriety Awareness Month: March 1995

The intent of this House Concurrent Resolution is to pay tribute to the thousands of men, women, and children, who through their own sobriety, are improving the quality of life and health for themselves, their families, and their communities. Secondly, this resolution encourages state agencies and citizens of the state to engage in suitable activities during the month of March 1995 to observe Sobriety Awareness Month. The concept of this resolution was initiated by the Alaskan Federation of Natives and the AFN Sobriety Movement.

The impact of this resolution is to increase community understanding and awareness of sobriety as a positive and healthy choice for individuals, families and communities. The growing awareness of the public contributes to a growing desire for information and knowledge about causes and effects and for effective approaches and programs to prevent and treat substance and addiction. Awareness and knowledge of substance abuse have led to the development of grass roots efforts to address the issues through local, state and national actions.

Building on the existing public interest can be among the most cost-effective approaches to achieving widespread and long lasting reductions in alcohol, other drug, and inhalant abuse. This interest can be the foundation for development of local action and partnerships with and among communities.

The Department of Health and Social Services strongly supports House Concurrent Resolution 11 to designate March 1995 as Sobriety Awareness Month.

Recommended by Marilee M. Fletcher Feb. 27, 1995
Date
Marilee M. Fletcher,
Division of Alcoholism
and Drug Abuse

Approved by Karen Perdue Feb. 27, 1995
Date
Karen Perdue,
Commissioner

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CR 11

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
 Title: Sobriety Awareness Month: March 1995 BRU: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Svcs
 Component: ADA Administration
 Sponsor: Nicholia, Gussendorf, Robinson, Navarre COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 302
 Requestor: House STA See also (SN#): _____

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGES IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other (please specify)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of any current year (FY95) cost: \$0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill has no fiscal impact on the division.

Prepared by: Marilee Fletcher
 Division: Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

Phone: 465-2071
 Date: 02/27/95

Approved by Commissioner: Karen Perdue
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Date: 2/27/95

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