

SCR

16

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Interim:
600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-3370
(907) 376-3157 Fax

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-6600
(907) 465-3805 Fax

SENATOR LYDA GREEN SENATE DISTRICT N

SPONSOR STATEMENT SCR16

Alaska is avalanche country. Each year Alaskans lose their lives as a result of avalanches. One of the worst years was 1999, when 14 people were killed by avalanches in Alaska. While often little or nothing can be done to prevent the occurrence of an avalanche, much can be done to prevent the loss of life from avalanches.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 16 would proclaim November as "Avalanche Awareness Month." This proclamation would raise public awareness of the hazards associated with avalanches, and the opportunities to participate in avalanche safety training at the beginning of the winter recreation season. It is hoped that public participation in avalanche safety programs would be increased and that this increased participation would result in saved lives during the winter.

The need for this resolution was brought to our attention by the Backcountry Avalanche Awareness Response Team (BAART).

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SCR 16

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected _____
 Title "Relating to Avalanche Awareness Month." BRU _____
 Sponsor Senate State Affairs Com. Component _____
 Requester _____ Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
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						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

no fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Brown - Senate State Affairs Phone 465-4940
 Division: _____ Date/Time _____
 Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date 3-28-00
 Agency: _____

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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Page 1 of 1

3 minute time

AVALANCHE AWARENESS MONTH

RESOLUTION/PROCLAMATION REQUESTED

In 1999 fourteen lives were lost in avalanches in Alaska; by February 6, 2000, two more lives were taken by avalanches. In memory of these loved ones, we encourage the governor and Alaska State Legislature to declare November as AVALANCHE AWARENESS MONTH in support of efforts to educate Alaskans about avalanche awareness and safety measures.

RATIONALE

This declaration/resolution would support the efforts of educators, recreation groups, and concerned Alaskan citizens to educate Alaskans of all ages on the subjects of avalanche awareness, safety measures, proper equipment and how to use it, and how to initiate immediate emergency response in avalanche situations. November is an optimum time to emphasize awareness and safety equipment as this is when Alaskans' thoughts turn to winter activities and many begin purchasing outdoor equipment. Emphasizing these topics in November would allow time for people to think about purchasing safety equipment (such as probes, shovels, avalanche beacons, etc.) as Christmas gifts.

November is also a prime time for the presentation of awareness and safety classes in schools and community school classes, by recreation groups, and other related organizations. Many response teams also begin practicing at this time; by raising public awareness of the importance of these groups, perhaps even more members of the public will become trained to help in emergency situations.

If these combined efforts help to save one Alaskan life, then the loss of loved ones in recent Alaskan avalanches would have had at least one positive outcome.

5 ~~to~~ From Mat Su Valley
4 from Anch ~~Mat Su~~ Eagle River
2 Cordova
2 Juneau
Sitka, Healy

✓ NEA - Alaska New Business Item
✓ Governor
✓ snow machine distributors

media event in November

George and Mildred Schmalzried (parents)
Georgia (sister) and Tom Flood
Richard, Ryan, Randon, Robert
Rhonda (sister) and Bob Koski
Christopher, Robin, Brittany, Curtis
David Schmalzried (brother)

30

JoAnn Warren
Jane and Pete Guzialck
Glenn and Carol Kooly
Paula Smith
Kent and Carol Seibert
Pam, Corbin, Darre.

K.J. Haves

Angel (wife) and son David

Gina Moreno (sister)
Jessica
Richard and Sophie (sister) Dickman
Eric and Nevera, Andrew
Dakota
Mark Moreno (brother)
Travis, Joshua, Alex, Justine

(Angel wanted the communities of Cantwell, Healy, and Denali National Park to be added as family who grieve the loss of K.J.)

Keith Coyne

Heidi (wife) and children Gregory and Amanda

Robert R and Patricia G. Coyne (parents)
Cleve Z. Coyne (brother)
Angela (sister) and Ed Reavis
Nathan, Jeremy, Heather, Edward

David Devries
Rocky and Barbara Morin
John Devries
Marie Keene

(70)

(The Arthur family added that there are hundreds of family/friends who also mourn Aaron's death from the communities of Tanana, Ruby, New Stuyahok, Dillingham, Anchorage, and the Mat-Su Valley)

Jodi Combs

Lisa Combs (wife) and daughter Korah

(22)

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Sherri, Brenda, and Theresa (sisters)
Shantelle, Dianna, Alexis (nieces)
Malen and Adella Combs (grandparents)
Robert and Madonna Combs
Ralph and Kathy Combs
Tracy, Todd, Amanda, Evan, Melissa, Ken

Vic Jones

Dawn (wife) and Sarah (daughter)

Chris Scott

Ed and Linda Scott (parents)
Brian (brother)

Odman Schmalzried

Kelli (wife)

Karen ; Shawn and Cheyanne (son and daughter)

**SOME OF THE
ALASKAN FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE LOSS OF LOVED
ONES IN RECENT AVALANCHES**

Aaron Joseph Arthur

Trina (Devries) Arthur (wife)

Jerry and Aedcne Arthur (parents)

Beth Arthur (sister) and Medzit Limani

Brenna Arthur

Tana Arthur-Blum (sister) and Charles Blum

Zaya Arthur-Gunton and Aaron Arthur Blum

Burton and Delta Jensen (grandparents)

(70)

*4 generations
of Alaskans
in Aaron's family
as well as wife's
family*

Families by Marriage

Lee and Maralyn Hartley

Sig and Mike Wellman

Clare and Kevin McClure

Brenda Hartley

Eric and Tamara Moffitt

Jessie, Maralyn, Kassi, Jeanie

Krystal Moffitt

Chloe, Travis, Tyler

Randy Moffitt

Cory, Levi

Denise and Lloyd Hubbard

Holly, Tara, Heidi, Willow, Lukas, Naomi

Grant and Susan Dunnigan

Hannah, Jeffrey

Andrea Dunnigan

Nicole, Jasmine, Reuben

Alice and Marty Mobley

Michael, Austin

Jamie Davis and James Wolsterman

Brandon, Stormy

Grace Valley

Jessie Devries

Andy and Dawn Devries

Brcann, Jason, Megan, Tristan

LIVES LOST IN 1999 ALASKAN AVALANCES

- Aaron Joseph Arthur (age 29), Palmer 1 ^{70 people} 4 generations on both Aaron's & wife's families
- (22) Jodi Combs (age 26), Anchorage 2
- Dan Demers (age 37), Eagle River 2
- Tech. Sgt. Victor Jones, Elmendorf, family in Wasilla 1
- Jeff Saunders (age 29), Anchorage 2
- Chris Scott (age 28), Anchorage 2

- (30) Odman Schmalzried, Wasilla 1
- Gary Stone, Cordova
- K. J. Haycs, Healy
- Katrina Winchell, Juneau
- Matthew Brakel, Juneau
- Jim Haberl, Canadian, lost in Wrangell, St. Elias National Park
- Jikolai Metashvili, University student, Sitka

over 30 generations Keith Coyne, Wasilla 1

LIVES LOST BY FEBRUARY 14, 2000

- Martha Quales (age 63), Cordova
- Kerry Brookman (age 53), Wasilla 1 5

Wesley (brother) and Michelle Coyne
Jonathan
O'Neal (brother) and Wendy Coyne
Sierra, Colton
Andy (brother) Coyne
Jason
Herbert, Angelie, Katliy

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Earl and Sabra Rinio
Dave and Jeanne Mumford
Rolland Kennerson
Lori Kneflekamp

FINAL NOTE

These are just a few of the families affected by the loss of loved ones. If you add the names to this list of family members that could not be contacted at this time, as well as the hundreds of Alaskan friends and communities that grieve these losses, the list would be be gigantic.

Those lost in avalanches thus far in 1999-2000 lived in many different communities; avalanches can occur throughout many areas of this great state. Loved ones can be lost whether enjoying the outdoors in a variety of ways, working, or relaxing at home. Hopefully through education and awareness, Alaska will not lose so many of its loved ones in this manner in the future.

(ps. Any mistakes in spelling of names or of relationship was unintentional, and the typist apologizes for any mistakes that were made.)

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the family members listed in this resolution, and on behalf of the other loved ones lost in Alaskan avalanches.

Jerry and Aedene Arthur, HICO 2 Box 7300, Palmer, Alaska 99645
907-745-5374 email address: brennaool@hotmail.com

SENATOR LYDA GREEN TEL: 907 376 3157 AUG 07, 99 4:44 No. 001 P. 01

Dear Geneva-

Thanks for routing to Governor's office & Lyda's. I will be checking to see how it is going. Perhaps Lyda might want to ask rep's, senators from the area / towns where people have been lost in avalanches for help to get through. Coyne family, Lithius, and others have formed

Backcountry
Avalanche
Awareness
Response
Team

for avalanche education and training to respond to emergencies. Next meeting March 7 - 6pm. Arctic Cat in Wasilla. Come if you want!

Thanks!
Arlene

BAART ←
Aarow would
love this -
he loved Bart Simpson



Senate Rules:

DATE: 4/7/2000

Please accept the enclosed original(s) of written testimony for the SCR 16
for the Senate State Affairs teleconference hearing that was scheduled on
4-6-2000.

A copy of this testimony was transmitted to your ^{SSA}committee via fax on 4-6-2000.

Thank you,

Mat-Su Legislative Information Office



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the State Affairs
committee name

committee on SCR 16, dated April 6, 2000
bill/subject

see attached

Signed: Audene L. Arthur

Testifier

BAART Backcountry Avalanche Awareness
Representing (Optional) and Response Team

1102 Box 7300, Palmer, AK 99645

Address

745-5374

Phone No.

3 minute time

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- ✓ NEA - Alaska New Business Item
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Jerry and Aedene Arthur, HCO 2 Box 7300, Palmer, Alaska 99645
907-745-5374 email address: brennao1@hotmail.com



Alaska State Legislature

S RLS

465-3756

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs Committee
committee name

committee on SCR-116, dated March 30, 2000
bill/subject

My name is Wes Coyne and I'm with the organization BAART (Back Country Avalanche Awareness Response Team) I'm also a brother to Keith Coyne who was lost in the Dec. 26, 1999 Avalanche at Halchen Pass. Having gone through the pain and loss of my brother, I want to educate and make people aware of conditions so they may be able to avoid what my family has gone through. If November were State wide Avalanche Awareness month, this resolution will reach schools, churches, scouts and other public + private agencies. From snowboarders to hikers and snowmobilers people need to be aware. Please pass this resolution, so that BAART would be allowed to use its resources and educate. I myself am an avid rider and want everyone to be aware.

Signed: Wesley R Coyne
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs Committee
committee name

committee on SCRIB, dated April 6, 2000.
bill/subject

I would like to see November become Avalanche Awareness month because it could make snow machiners, skiers and snow boarders aware of avalanches before the snow season really begins. This way more people can practise ~~avalane~~ snow safety. By doing this, ~~ava~~ the amount of people dying in avalanches can be reduced. Also, other people will not have to go through the heart break of losing a loved one to an avalanche, such as my family and I have. Also, Avalanche Awareness month can be used to tell the common person how to practise snow safety. This can all make the difference between life and death. Now America in general is sorry for causing so many deaths. Does the ~~stater~~ State of Alaska really want to ^{be} guilty and responsible for causing the deaths of innocent people? Well, if it doesn't then making November the Avalanche Awareness Month is the solution because then the common person will be told how to prevent themselves from dying or getting caught in an avalanche. ~~Don't state this~~ Don't prevent Alaska from receiving ~~Avata~~ Avalanche education!!!

Signed: Buenna Outley
Testifier

BAART
Representing (Optional)

HCOA Box 7300 Palmer, AK 991045
Address

P.t.m 1-907-745-5374
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs Committee
 committee name
 committee on SCR-110, dated March 30, 2000
 bill/subject

Please make November Avalanche Awareness Month.
 My name is Michelle Coyne with BAAART (Back
 Country Avalanche Awareness Response Team) I feel
 if Nov. were a State-wide month dedicated to the
 education and awareness of Avalanche's we may be
 able to help people to better understand the importance
 of proper safety equipment and assesing conditions. Many
 people would buy beacons + probes as Christmas gifts for
 their loved ones if they were fully aware of the importance
 & help us to help others in this matter. Please support
 November, 2000 as Avalanche Awareness month. Thank
 You & God Bless.

Signed: Michelle A. Coyne
 Testifier

 Representing (Optional)

 Address

 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate, State Affairs
committee name Committee
committee on SCR 16, dated April 6, 2000
bill/subject

This ^{community} ~~Committee~~ - really needs
awareness around avalanches.
Especially children, our young
people in this community go
out on their own and need
to know how to protect them-
selves

Signed: Lois Ziefelkamp
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 874243 Wasilla, AK 99687
Address.
(907) 745-1901
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Comm.
committee name
 committee on SCR#16, dated April 6th 2000.
bill/subject

*I Support Avalanche Awareness Month
 for (November)*

Signed: *D. Neal P. Corpe*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC-30 Box 100 I. Isilla, AK 99654-
Address 9755
(907) 373-1233
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs Comm.
committee name
 committee on SCR# 16, dated 04/06/00
bill/subject

I support Avalanche Awareness
 Month. (November).

Signed: Wendy Coyne
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
H/C-30 Box 100 Wasilla Ak 99654
Address
(907) 373-1233
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs Committee
 committee name
 committee on JCR 16, dated April 6, 2000
 bill/subject

I support Avalanche Awareness Month,

Signed: John Jacobson
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Big Lake
 Address

842-8828
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs Committee
committee name

committee on SCR16, dated April 6, 2000.
bill/subject

My name is Chris Nooka and I'm president and one of the founders of B.A.A.R.T. which stands for Backcountry Avalanche Awareness & Response Team. I'm here to ask for your help in passing resolution SCR16 to make November "Avalanche Awareness Month".

The state no longer has an avalanche warning system in place even though federal law mandates that we have one, and we've had 16 people die in avalanches in the last year. One being one of my best friends.

Signed: Chris Nooka

Testifier

B.A.A.R.T

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 521667, Big Lake, AK 99652

Address

907-892-7073

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Senate State Affairs

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SRC #16

committee name

committee on

Avulanche Awareness Month

4/6/00

bill/subject

*Please have the month of
November a avalanche awareness
month as it needed to help
save lives*

Signed:

Charles E. Shaver, C. Shaver

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

327 S. Vetter Way

Address

Fairbanks, AK 99705

Phone No.

907 745-3505



Alaska State Legislature

Senate State Affairs
SCR #16

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
committee name

committee on Aviation Business Month dated 4/5/00
bill/subject

PLEASE MAKE NOVEMBER AVIATION
BUSINESS MONTH PEOPLE NEED
TO BE AWARE OF TWO EXTREME
DANGERS & SAVE A FEW LIVES!
6
6

Signed: Charles W. Eagle
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

HC-03 Box 8300 Palmer, Alaska
Address

1-907-745-4515
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
S.C.R. #16
 committee name
 committee on Avalanche Suppression Month dated 4/5/00
 bill/subject

I would like to see November as
 Avalanche Awareness Month, as we
 all need to be educated! We need
 to protect lives!

Signed: Darlene R. Boyle
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC-03 Box 8300 Palmer, Ak.
 Address
1-907-745-4516
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SCR #16
 committee name
 committee on Avalanche Awareness Mentored
 bill/subject 417100

I would love to see an avalanche awareness program started.

Signed: *Delmarie K. Rush*
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 12602 Palmer, AK 99645
 Address
746-5170
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SCR #16
committee name

committee on Tanana/Chitina/Quadrangle Month, dated _____
bill/subject

I am all for this and think it is very important.

Signed: *Lillian J. DeFrost*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 1110 Chickaloon, AK 99674

Address

745-1022 cell 863-1022

Phone No.

[Fwd: SJR 16]

Subject: [Fwd: SJR 16]

Date: Tue, 04 Apr 2000 18:14:30 -0800

From: Senator Jerry Ward <Senator_Jerry_Ward@legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: Alaska State Legislature

To: Loretta_Brown@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: SJR 16

Date: Tue, 28 Mar 2000 14:54:36 -0900

From: "Lance & Marie Stevens" <gizmofj40@gci.net>

To: "Senator Lyda Green" <Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Senator_Jerry_Ward@legis.state.ak.us>

Senators, I request your support of Avalanche Awareness Month. This issue will continue to increase with population turnover and winter tourism growth.

Lance Stevens
17419 Kantishna
Eagle River, AK 99577

Subject: [Fwd: support for SCR 13]

Date: Tue, 04 Apr 2000 18:13:26 -0800

From: Senator Jerry Ward <Senator_Jerry_Ward@legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: Alaska State Legislature

To: Loretta_Brown@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: support for SCR 13

Date: Wed, 29 Mar 2000 19:27:41 -0900

From: seakaval <seakaval@alaska.net>

Organization: Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center/Alaska Environmental Solutions

To: Senator_Jerry_Ward@legis.state.ak.us

Hello Senator Ward,

Please note that the Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center enthusiastically supports SCR 13's call for establishing Avalanche Awareness month.

The rising toll of deaths, injuries, and property damage in Alaska this and last year is ample evidence of the need for support of avalanche readiness and prevention. Avalanches in Alaska have affected our houses, highways, & powerlines; and people doing such ordinary everyday activities as snowmachining. They are clearly a concern for many Alaskans, not just the concern of a few extreme adventurers.

Avalanche education, prevention, and forecasting can save far more than they cost. The cost of even a minor backcountry search exceeds half the annual budget of our nonprofit organization, which aims to prevent much of the need for such rescue work. A resolution is a great start, and we thank you for sponsoring it; but how about following it up with some real commitment in the form of funding?

thank you
Bill Glude, director
Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center
PO Box 22316
Juneau, AK 99802

Subject: [Fwd: Support Avalanche Awareness Month]
Date: Tue, 04 Apr 2000 18:15:10 -0800
From: Senator Jerry Ward <Senator_Jerry_Ward@legis.state.ak.us>
Organization: Alaska State Legislature
To: Loretta_Brown@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: Support Avalanche Awareness Month
Date: Tue, 28 Mar 2000 14:02:14 -0900
From: westfall <westfalia_werke@yahoo.com>
To: Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us, Senator_Jerry_Ward@legis.state.ak.us

Ms. Green, Mr. Ward >>

Sheila Westfall and Joe Westfall both support avalanche awareness month. Please help rally support for this proclamation. We are the certified state safety instructors and we provide free awareness briefings to the local areas and to the elementary through high school kids (an example you may be familiar with is the Big Lake Safety Seminar (both afternoon and evening) held each fall at Big Lake Elementary School). We also do the safety public service television announcements on the Alaska Superstation (KIMO-13). We do this as a volunteer service through both the Alaska State Snowmobile Association (ASSA) and the Alaska Snowmachine Search Rescue and Recovery Team (ASSRRT).

We believe there are future lives to save if the state promotes and supports this proclamation.

Best Regards.
WJoe Westfall CSP/ICCP
Alaska Snowmachine Search Rescue & Recovery Team
907-333-0739
westfalia_werke@yahoo.com

WJoe Westfall (yahoo) <westfalia_werke@yahoo.com>



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the 50R-16
committee name
committee on Avalanche Awareness dated 4/14/00
bill/subject

Signed: Gale E. Elstad
Testifier
self
Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 81 Sutton, Ak. 99674
Address
907-446-4247
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SCR-16
committee name
committee on Avalanche Awareness, dated 7-14-00
bill/subject

Signed: *Gene Shum*
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

3447 E 28th Anchorage AK 99507
Address

907-344-5816
Phone No.