

HCR

20



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Anna Fairclough – House District 17

House Concurrent Resolution 20

Proclaiming the month of April 2010 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month

House Concurrent Resolution 20 intends to encourage all Alaskans to speak out against sexual assault and let others know that it will not be tolerated.

In addition to trying to spread the message and reach out to Alaskans who've suffered to speak up and discourage the continuance of this crime, we also want to recognize the efforts of groups and people around the state who have committed their time, effort and lives to making sure victims have someone to talk to, a place to go and other services and avenues to help.

Currently, estimates from nonprofit groups and the government show that Alaska has 2.6 times the national average of reported sexual assault cases, the highest per capita occurrence in the entire nation.

I urge your support on this important piece of Legislation.

- 1 out of every 6 American women have been the victims of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime (14.8% completed rape; 2.8% attempted rape). *(National Institute of Justice & Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women Survey, 1998)*
- For nearly 30 years, Alaska has ranked among the top five states in the nation for forcible rape; in 2006 Alaska's rate was 76 per 100,000 – the next nearest state (Nevada) was 56 per 100,000 and the national average was 32.7. On average, Alaska has 2 ½ times the national average. *(FBI, Crime in the United States, 2006)*
- 9.2% of Alaska students in grades 9-12 report having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to; *(2007 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Study)*
- In 2006, there were 509 forcible rapes reported in Alaska. The associated victim costs in 2006 totaled \$49,691,634.
- Victims of sexual assault are:
 - 3 times more likely to suffer from depression
 - 6 times more likely to suffer for post-traumatic stress disorder
 - 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol
 - 26 times more likely to abuse drugs
 - 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide*(World Health Organization, 2002)*