

**SCR**

**1**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session  
State Capitol Building, Room 125  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone (907) 465-2995  
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Interim  
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Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
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Co-Chair  
Senate Resources Committee

Chair  
Senate Special Committee on Energy  
Senate Special Committee on World Trade,  
Technology & Innovation

Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Joint Armed Services Committee

## SENATOR LESIL MCGUIRE

### MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Bettye Davis  
Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Committee

From: Senator Lesil McGuire

Date: January 30, 2009

Re: Hearing Request: SCR 1: Brain Injury Awareness Month 2009

I respectfully request that SCR 1 *A Resolution relating to establishing March 2008 as brain injury awareness month* be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Health & Social Services Committee at your earliest convenience. Attached you will find the most current version of the resolution, a sponsor statement, and all backup information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me personally or my staff, Trevor Fulton, at x3579. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Updated 2/10/09

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## SENATOR LESIL MCGUIRE

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### SCR 1: BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH: MARCH 2008

SCR 1 aims to raise awareness about traumatic brain injuries and the impact they have on Alaskans and their families.

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is when a blow or jolt hits the head hard enough it causes the brain to move within the skull or the skull breaks and the brain is directly hurt. When this happens, the injury disrupts the normal functioning of the brain. A traumatic brain injury can result in both short-term and long-term problems that involve impairment of cognitive abilities, physical functioning, or both.

Brain injury is very complex because no two injuries are the same. How each person may react to the same type of trauma is unknown. The cause, location and severity also are factors in how a person will react to a brain injury.

The State of Alaska is number one per capita for brain injuries and TBI is one of the leading causes of death of young people in the state. Over 800 TBIs are reported annually and an estimated 12,000 Alaskans have suffered a TBI. It is unknown how many people suffer from traumatic brain injuries (TBI) who do not receive medical assistance.

These injuries are often life altering and consequently place a tremendous strain on victims and their families. Victims often live with permanent disabilities and the tragedy of TBI is exacerbated by the fact that most TBIs are preventable.

The Brain Injury Association of America recognizes March of each year as Brain Injury Awareness Month. SJR 1 comports with national recognition by making March 2009 Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month in Alaska.

Because TBI incidence in Alaska is on the rise, raising TBI awareness is more important now than it has ever been. TBIs are one of the most common injuries incurred in military combat today and as injured military personnel return home to Alaska the rate of TBIs is increasing sharply -- with no signs of slowing.

According to a task force on traumatic brain injury created by the Army Surgeon General, as many as one in five U.S. combat troops who fought in Iraq or Afghanistan leave with signs they may have had a TBI. The Walter Reed Army Medical Center reports that 60% of arriving service members from Iraq have a TBI from blasts, severe falls, and motor vehicle accidents. TBI screening at the National Naval Medical Center shows that 83% of wounded Marines treated at that facility have some form of temporary or permanent brain damage.

Rising TBI rates in Alaska is another reason why it is so important to bring attention to this silent epidemic. So please join us in support of brain injury awareness, prevention, and treatment by supporting SCR 1.

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation* by *Sarah Palin, Governor*

An estimated 5.3 million Americans currently live with disabilities resulting from traumatic brain injury (TBI). Every year, 80,000 individuals experience the onset of long-term disability following a brain injury. Brain injury can affect a person cognitively, physically, emotionally, and behaviorally. Consequences can include short and long-term memory loss, double or low vision, headaches or migraines, fatigue, increased anxiety, depression and mood swings, and impulsive behavior.

The three leading causes of brain injury are motor vehicle accidents, violence, and falls. Falls are the leading cause of brain injury in the elderly. The risk of brain injury is higher in adolescents, young adults, and people older than 75 years. After one brain injury, the risk for a second injury is three times greater, after the second injury, the risk for a third injury is eight times greater.

The effects of brain injury are devastating emotionally and financially to families. The cost of brain injury in the United States is estimated to be \$48.3 billion annually.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health, the lead state agency for TBI, in close collaboration with the Alaska Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Network, the Division of Public Health, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, and the Alaska Commission on Aging are all working together toward the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic brain injury in Alaska.

Public awareness of the extent, consequences, and causes of brain injury is critical to the prevention of these injuries and will enhance the recovery process for persons with brain injury.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sarah Palin, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim March 2007 as:

### *Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month*

in Alaska, and encourage everyone to remember those with brain injuries and be more informed about traumatic brain injury.

Dated: March 8, 2007



A handwritten signature of Sarah Palin in black ink.

*Sarah Palin, Governor*  
who has also authorized the  
seal of the State of Alaska to  
be affixed to this proclamation.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: SCR1  
 () Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): SCR1-LEG-COU-2-11-09 Dept. Affected: Legislature  
 Title: Relating to establishing March 2009 as Brain Injury Awareness Month. RDU: Legislative Council  
 Component: Council and Subcommittees  
 Sponsor: Senator Lesli McGuire  
 Requester: Senate HESS Committee Component Number: 783

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.

Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director  
 Division: Legislative Affairs Agency  
 Approved by: Pamela Varni, Executive Director  
Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone 465-6626  
 Date/Time 2/11/09 12:32 PM  
 Date 2/11/2009

**Testimony for SCR 1**

Jill Hodges, Executive Director, Alaska Brain Injury Network

Nancy Michaelson, mother of TBI survivor

SCR1 "Resolution Relating To Establishing March 2009 As Brain Injury Awareness Month"  
Testimony given to the Senate Health and Social Services Committee, February 11, 2009  
Nancy Michaelson

Good afternoon, Honored Chair and Committee members,

Thank you for letting me comment to you today on SCR1, a Resolution that is near and dear to my heart.

My husband and I live in our home with our 25 year old son Aren who 6 years ago became permanently disabled with brain injury. He was fortunate enough to get admitted to Craig Rehabilitation Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

Why do I say "fortunate enough"? Because Aren had serious medical issues that needed specialized care from a full team of doctors, and he was able to get that while participating daily in a rehab program especially designed for brain injury patients.

But, even more than that, within the first 20 hours there, we were met with the attitude that Aren had widespread damage so we had a lot of work to do and we'd better get started.

I cannot stress to you enough the differences in this attitude from what we experienced here at home both before we went to Craig for rehab and after we returned.

So, yes, we were lucky to go outside to a specialty brain injury rehab center for the following over-riding reason: the "Hopeful Outlook." Hope -- for Aren's future and our future as a family; for the life he and we can have regardless of the status of his cognition or abilities. We came home with the realization that we can fight for, move towards, and support quality of life for persons with brain injury regardless of their stage of injury. We learned appreciation for an ability to look outside the box of traditional physical rehabilitation therapy and care programs to find approaches that work with persons with brain injury, always keeping in mind the unique challenge of the delicate balance between physical abilities and cognitive realities. Insurance policies cover these approaches and there are places these therapies happen in the US, why not in Alaska?

To be honest with you, when we returned to Alaska and visited our son's Rehab doctor and staff -- he is mainly immobile and largely incommunicative -- we told them we were "ecstatic" to have Aren at home with us. We were met with incredulous and even insulting comments.

We attribute this to **our** outlook upon returning from the brain injury rehab center and our acceptance that the only life we have with our son is what it will be with brain injury, regardless of what progress he makes. We also attribute these negative comments to a lack of general awareness in Alaska about brain injury and of the wide range of capabilities of brain injury survivors. High needs and lower-level function survivors like Aren sit in a wheelchair and look like they can't understand anything to the untrained eye, until you tell them just the right joke, or talk to them about politics, or take them sledding. Other survivors may walk, talk, drive, teach art, but not be able to balance a checkbook, answer a telephone, or remember the routine you go through before you go to bed at night.

We have encountered problems since we got back in Alaska getting rehab medical or therapy

care. Most of the problems had to do with the fact that Aren got his original treatment Outside...or had his pain pump implanted there to help control his spasticity.

I fear for those numerous returning Vets who may only face the same problems at the very same time Alaskans are offering them a hero's welcome home.

What about how families are affected by brain injury? Indeed, Aren's brain injury has not only disabled him for the rest of his life, but has changed his sister's life -- and that of her new, young family -- forever. Aren will have high needs forever, will probably never walk up to her to hug her or thump her on the head again, and will require Guardianship management after we are gone. This kind of psychological and emotional reality can and usually does break families. In our family, Aren's care totally consumes our daily schedule and our finances. (I lost my job after his injury since I had to be home caring for him.)

Known as "the quiet epidemic", sometimes brain injury is not so silent. There are sleepless nights and crying from pain that Aren may or may not be able to identify or communicate to us. And there is occasional sobbing. Universally, depression is a side effect of brain injury. Thankfully, Aren has not often shown signs of this.

But you know what? Above everything else, we remain thankful just to be able to be together as a family, to have the life we **do** have.

This is where you come in.

We believe Alaskans deserve a local rehabilitation option that can give them the chance to get on the road to whatever recovery is possible and to learn to live life to its fullest potential even after surviving brain injury. But before we get there:

AWARENESS -- of the large numbers of Alaskans who suffer brain injuries annually,

AWARENESS -- of the wide scope of their rehabilitation needs,

AWARENESS -- of the impact of brain injury on families, and

AWARENESS -- that many brain injuries can be prevented.

YOU can help all of these become reality when you pass this resolution. We, the Michaelson family, commend the introduction of SCR1 and heartily thank you for your vote to declare March 2009 Brain Injury Awareness Month.

Sincerely,

Nancy Michaelson     7799 N Palmer Fishhook Rd, Palmer, AK 99645



*It Takes More Than Medical School to Make a Physician*

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## Twelve Months of Disability Awareness

There are a number of disability-related awareness months, weeks and days. Promoting one or several of these days is a great way to increase the awareness of disability-related issues at your school. Where available, contact information is given. Call or write the appropriate organization to request promotional kits, posters and other available information. Remember: *Disabilities is more than just meets the eye!* Make sure others around you know this as well.

[Jan](#) | [Feb](#) | [Mar](#) | [Apr](#) | [May](#) | [Jun](#) | [Jul](#) | [Aug](#) | [Sept](#) | [Oct](#) | [Nov](#) | [Dec](#)

### JANUARY

**Mental Wellness Month**

**Thyroid Disease Awareness Month**

**National Birth Defects Prevention Month**

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation  
1275 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains, NY 10605  
(914) 997-4600

**National Glaucoma Awareness Month**

Prevent Blindness America  
500 East Remington Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173  
(800) 331-2020 / (847) 843-2020

### FEBRUARY

**National Eating Disorders Screening Program**

**National Wise Mental Health Consumer Month**

**National American Heart Month**

**National Women's Heart Health Day**

**National Have-A-Heart Day: Feb. 14**

**American Heart Association**

7272 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75231  
(800) AHA-USA

**Low Vision Awareness Month**

Prevent Blindness America  
500 East Remington Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173  
(800) 331-2020 / (847) 843-2020

**National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week**

American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation  
7611 Elmwood Ave, Ste 201, Middleton, WI 53562

(608) 831-6989

**National Burn Awareness Week**  
Shriners Burn Institute  
3229 Burnet Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45229  
(513) 872-6000

**MARCH**

**Hemophilia Month**  
National Hemophilia Foundation, Soho Building  
110 Greene St, Ste 303, New York, NY 10012  
(800) 42-HANDI

**Mental Retardation Awareness Month**  
The Arc  
500 East Border St, Ste 300, Arlington, TX 76010  
(817) 261-6003

**National Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Month**  
National Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Fibromyalgia Association  
PO Box 18426, Kansas City, MO 64133  
(816) 313-2000 / (816) 524-6782 (Fax)

**National Kidney Month**  
National Kidney Foundation  
30 East 33rd St, New York, NY 10016  
(800) 622-9010 / (212) 889-2210

**Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week**  
American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation  
7611 Elmwood Ave, Ste 201, Middleton, WI 53562  
(608) 831-6989

**American Diabetes Alert**  
American Diabetes Association  
Duke St, Alexandria, VA 22314  
(800) DIABETES

**APRIL**

**Cancer Control Month**  
American Cancer Society  
National Headquarters  
1599 Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-4251  
(800) ACS-2345 / (404) 320-3333

**Counseling Awareness Month**  
American Counseling Association  
5999 Stevenson Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304  
(703) 823-9800

**National Autism Awareness Month**  
Autism Society of America  
7910 Woodmont Ave, Ste 650, Bethesda, MD 20814-3015  
(800) 3-AUTISM (parent information and referral calls only)  
(800) 329-0899 (fax-on-demand, quick response)  
(301) 657-0881 / (301) 657-0869 (fax)

**National STD Awareness Month**  
American Social Health Association  
PO Box 13827, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709  
(919) 361-8400 / (919) 361-8425 (Fax)

**National Minority Cancer Awareness Week**  
Cancer Information Service  
NCI Office of Cancer Communications  
Building 31, Room 10A16

9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892  
(800) 4-CANCER / (301) 402-2594

**WalkAmerica**

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation  
1275 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains, NY 10605  
(914) 997-4573

**MAY**

**Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month**

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
1125 15th St NW, Ste 502, Washington, DC 20005  
(800) 7-ASTHMA / (202) 466 7643

**Better Hearing and Speech Month**

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852  
(800) 638-8255 / (301) 897-8682

**Breathe Easy Month**

American Lung Association  
1740 Broadway, New York, NY 10019  
(800) LUNG-USA / (212) 315-8700

**Hepatitis Awareness Month**

Hepatitis Foundation International  
30 Sunrise Terrace, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009  
(973) 239-1035 / (973) 857-5044 (Fax)

**Huntington's Disease Awareness Month**

Huntingdon's Disease Society of America, Inc.  
140 West 22nd St, Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10011-2420  
(800) 345-4372 / (212) 242-1968  
(212) 243-2443 (Fax)

**National Arthritis Month**

Arthritis Foundation  
1330 West Peachtree St, Atlanta, GA 30309  
(800) 283-7800 / (404) 872-7100

**National Digestive Diseases Awareness Month**

Digestive Disease National Coalition  
507 Capitol Court NE, Ste 200, Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 544-7497

**National High Blood Pressure Month**

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Information Center  
PO Box 30105, Bethesda, MD 20824-0105  
(301) 251-1222 / (301) 251-1223 (Fax)  
nhlbic@dgsys.com

**National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month**

American Academy of Dermatology  
PO Box 681069, Schaumburg, IL 60168  
(847)330-0230 ext. 343 / (847)330-0050 (Fax)

**National Mental Health Month**

National Mental Health Association  
1021 Prince St, Alexandria, VA 22314-2971  
(800) 969-6642 / (703) 684-7722  
(703) 684-5968 (Fax)

**National Neurofibromatosis Month**

National Neurofibromatosis Foundation  
120 Wall Street, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10005  
(800) 323-7938 / (212) 344-6633  
(212) 747-0004 (Fax)

**National Stroke Awareness Month**

National Stroke Association  
96 Inverness Dr East, Ste I, Englewood, CO 80112-5112  
(800) STROKES

**National Trauma Awareness Month**

American Trauma Society  
8903 Presidential Parkway, Ste 512, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2656  
(800) 556-7890 / (301) 420-4189

**Tuberous Sclerosis Awareness Month**

National Tuberous Sclerosis Association  
8181 Professional Place, Ste 110, Landover, MD 20785  
(800) 225-6872 / (301) 459-9888

**National Suicide Awareness Week**

American Association of Suicidology  
4201 Connecticut Ave NW, Ste 310, Washington, DC 20008  
(202) 237-2280 / (202) 237-2282 (Fax)

**National Mental Health Counseling Week**

American Mental Health Counselor Association  
801 North Fairfax St, Ste 304, Alexandria, VA 22314  
(800) 326-2642 / (703) 548-4775 (Fax)

**Childhood Depression Awareness Day**

National Mental Health Association  
1021 Prince St, Alexandria, VA 22314-2971  
(800) 969-6642 / (703) 684-7722  
(703) 684-5984 (Fax)

**National Anxiety Disorders Screening Day**

National Mental Illness Screening Project  
308 Seaview Ave, Staten Island, NY 10305  
(718) 351-1717 / (718) 667-8893 (Fax)

**National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention**

American Academy of Dermatology  
PO Box 681069, Schaumburg, IL 60168  
(847) 330-0230, ext 343 / (847) 330-0050 (Fax)

**National Alcohol and Other Drug-Related Birth Defects Week**

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.  
12 West 21st Street, New York, NY 10010  
(212) 206-6770

**National Osteoporosis Prevention Week**

National Osteoporosis Foundation  
1150 17th Street NW, Ste 500, Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 223-2226

**National Stuttering Awareness Week**

Stuttering Foundation of America  
3100 Walnut Grove Rd, Ste 603, Memphis, TN 38111-0749  
(800) 992-9392 / (901) 452-7343  
(901) 452-3931 (Fax)  
stuttersfa@aol.com

**JUNE**

**National Hernia Awareness Month**

**National HIV Testing Day**

**National Scleroderma Awareness Month**

United Scleroderma Foundation  
PO Box 399, Watsonville, CA 95077-0399  
(800) 722-HOPE / (408) 728-2202  
(408) 728-3328 (Fax)

outreach@scleroderma.com

**National Aphasia Awareness Week**

National Aphasia Association  
156 Fifth Ave, Ste 707, New York, NY 10010  
(800) 922-4622 / (212) 989-7777 (Fax)  
klein@aphasia.org

**National Headache Awareness Week**

National Headache Foundation (NHF)  
428 West St. James Place, 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60614-2750  
(800) 843-2256 / (773) 525-7357 (Fax)

**Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week**

Helen Keller National Center  
111 Middle Neck Rd , Sands Point, NY 11050  
(516) 944-8900, ext. 325 / (516) 944-8637 (TTY)  
(516) 944-7302 (Fax)

**JULY**

**Hemochromatosis Screening Awareness Month**

Hemochromatosis Foundation  
PO Box 8569, Albany, NY 12208  
(518) 489-0972

**AUGUST**

**Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month**

Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
(800) 886-1762 / (847) 367-7620  
(847) 367-7623 (Fax)

**SEPTEMBER**

**Leukemia Society Month**

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
1311 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10605  
(212) 573-8484  
<http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org>

**Prostate Cancer Awareness Week**

Prostate Health Council  
American Foundation for Urological Disease  
1128 North Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21201  
(800) 822-5277

**National Cholesterol Education Month**

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Information Center  
PO Box 30105, Bethesda, MD 20824-0105  
(301)251-1222 / (301)251-1223 (Fax)  
nhlbic@dgsys.com

**National Pediculosis Prevention Month**

National Pediculosis Association  
PO Box 610189, Newton, MA 02161  
(617) 449-NITS

**National Sickle Cell Month**

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America  
200 Corporate Pointe, Ste 49, Culver City, CA 90230-7633  
(800) 421-8453 / (310) 216-6363

**Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month**

The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition  
PO Box 4472, Boca Raton, FL 33429-4472

(888) OVARIAN  
ovca@aol.com

**National Rehabilitation Week**

National Rehabilitation Awareness Foundation  
PO Box 71, Scranton, PA 18501-0071  
(717) 341-4637 / (717) 341-4331 (Fax)

**Hearing Aid Awareness Week**

International Hearing Society  
20361 Middlebelt Rd, Livonia, MI 48152  
(800) 521-5247

**National 5-A-Day Week**

Cancer Information Service  
NCI Office of Cancer Communications  
Building 31, Room 10A16  
9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892  
(800) 4-CANCER / (301) 402-8594 (Fax)

**National Reye's Syndrome Week**

National Reye's Syndrome Foundation  
PO Box 829, Bryan, OH 43506  
(419) 636-2679 / (419) 636-3366 (Fax)  
reyessyn@mail.bright.net

**Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**

National Childhood Cancer Foundation  
<http://www.nccf.org>

**OCTOBER**

**Breast Cancer Control Month**

American Cancer Society  
National Headquarters  
1599 Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-4251  
(800) ACS-2345 / (404) 320-3333

**Celiac Sprue Awareness Month**

Celiac Sprue Association/United States of America  
PO Box 31700, Omaha, NE 68131-0700  
(402) 558-0600

**Healthy Lung Month**

American Lung Association  
1740 Broadway, New York, NY 10019-4374  
(800) LUNG-USA  
(212) 889-3370 New York  
(202) 682-5864 Washington, DC

**National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Cancer Information Service  
Office of Cancer Communications  
Building 31, Room 10A16  
9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892  
(800) 4-CANCER / (301) 402-8594 (Fax)

**National Campaign for Healthier Babies Month**

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation  
1275 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains, NY 10605  
(914) 997-4600

**National Liver Awareness Month**

American Liver Foundation  
1425 Pompton Ave, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009  
(800) GO-LIVER / (973) 256-2550

**National Lupus Awareness Month**

National Lupus Foundation of America

1330 Piccard Drive, Ste 200, Rockville, MD 20850-4303  
(800) 558-0121 (English) / (800) 558-0231 (Spanish)  
(301) 670-9292

**National Physical Therapy Month**

American Physical Therapy Association  
1111 North Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 706-3248 / (703) 684-7343 (Fax)

**National Spina Bifida Prevention Month**

Spina Bifida Association of America  
4590 MacArthur Blvd NW, Ste 250, Washington, DC 20007-4226  
(800) 621-3141 / (202) 944-3285  
(202) 944-3295 (Fax)

**National Spinal Health Month**

American Chiropractic Association  
1701 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington, VA 22209  
(800)986-4636 (for orders only) / (703)276-8800

**Rett Syndrome Awareness Month**

International Rett Syndrome Association  
9121 Piscataway Rd, Suite 2B, Clinton, MD 20735  
(800) 818-RETT / (301) 856-3334  
(301) 856-3336 (Fax)  
irsa@paltech.com

**Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month**

SIDS Alliance  
1314 Bedford Ave, Ste 210, Baltimore, MD 21208  
(800) 221-SIDS / (410) 653-8226  
(410) 653-8709 (Fax )

**American Heart Walk**

American Heart Association  
7272 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75231  
(800) AHA-USA1 / (301) 990-8900

**Mental Illness Awareness Week**

American Psychiatric Association  
1400 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 682-6220

**National Depression Screening Days**

National Mental Illness Screening Project  
308 Seaview Ave, Staten Island, NY 10305  
(718) 351-1717 / (718) 667-8893 (Fax)  
<http://www.nmisp.org>

**National Hepatitis Awareness Week**

American Liver Foundation  
1425 Pompton Ave, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009  
(800) 223-0179 / (201) 256-2550

**National Red Ribbon Celebration**

National Family Partnership  
11159B South Town Square, St. Louis, MO 63123  
(314) 845-1933

**National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
c/o Foresight Communications  
PO Box 3156, Chicago, IL 60654-3156  
or  
The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation  
@ (800) IM AWARE  
or  
National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service  
(800) 4-CANCER  
<http://cancernet.nci.nih.gov> / <http://rex.nci.nih.gov>  
or

American Cancer Society  
1599 Clifton Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329  
(800) ACS-2345 / (404) 320-3333  
<http://www.cancer.org>

**National AIDS Awareness Month**  
Pharmacists Planning Service, Inc.  
101 Lucas Valley Rd #210, San Rafael, CA 94903  
(415) 479-8628 / (415) 479-8608 (Fax)  
ppsi@aol.com

**World Mental Health Day**  
World Federation for Mental Health  
1021 Prince St, Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 838-7525 / (703) 684-5968 (fax)  
wfmh@erols.com

**National Psoriasis Awareness Month**  
The National Psoriasis Foundation  
6600 SW 92nd Ave, Ste 300, Portland, OR 97223  
Tara Rolstad / Matthew Merenda  
Voice: (800) 723-9166 / Fax: (503) 245-0626  
E-mail: tara@npfusa.org  
<http://www.psoriasis.org/pressrel/psorawar100897.html>

**National Brain Injury Awareness Month**

**Pastoral Care Week**

## NOVEMBER

**Diabetic Eye Disease Month**  
Prevent Blindness America  
500 East Remington Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173  
(800) 331-2020 / (847) 843-2020

**National Alzheimer's Awareness Month**  
Alzheimer's Association  
919 North Michigan Ave, Ste 1000, Chicago, IL 60611-1676  
(800) 272-3900 / (312) 335-8700  
(312) 335-8882 (TDD) / (312) 335-1110 (Fax)

**National Diabetes Month**  
American Diabetes Association  
1660 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
(800) 232-3472 / (703) 549-1500

**National Epilepsy Month**  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
4351 Garden City Drive, Landover, MD 20785  
(800) EFA-1000 / (800) 213-5821 (publications)  
(301) 459-3700

**National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Week**  
Brain Aneurysm Foundation  
66 Canal Street, Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 723-3870 / (617) 723-8672 (Fax)

**National Home Care Month**

**National Hospice Month**

## DECEMBER

**World AIDS Day**  
American Association for World Health  
1825 K Street NW, Ste 1208, Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 466-5883

**National Aplastic Anemia Awareness Week**

Aplastic Anemia Foundation of America, Inc.

PO Box 613, Annapolis, MD 21404

(800) 747-2820

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# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

## First Committee of Referral

DATE: 1/21/09

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2/4/09  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 2/11/09

**Health and Social Services Committee** considered SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

SCR 1 BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH: MARCH 2009

Relating to establishing March 2009 as Brain Injury Awareness Month.

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**SENATE BILL:**  
 Same Title  
 New Title

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**HOUSE BILL:**  
 Same Title  
 Technical Title Change  
 New Title w/ SCR # \_\_\_\_\_



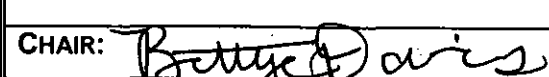
**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
LEG	2/11			✓	

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	ELLIS	X			
	PASKVAN	X			
CHAIR: 	DAVIS	X			

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session  
State Capitol Building, Room 125  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone (907) 465-2995  
Fax (907) 465-6592

Interim  
716 West Fourth Avenue, Suite 430  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
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Fax (907) 269-0249



**SENATOR LESIL MCGUIRE**

Co-Chair  
Senate Resources Committee

Chair  
Senate Special Committee on Energy  
Senate Special Committee on World Trade,  
Technology & Innovation

Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Joint Armed Services Committee

## MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Bettye Davis  
Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Committee

From: Senator Lesil McGuire 

Date: January 30, 2009

Re: Hearing Request: SCR 1: Brain Injury Awareness Month 2009

I respectfully request that SCR 1 *A Resolution relating to establishing March 2008 as brain injury awareness month* be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Health & Social Services Committee at your earliest convenience. Attached you will find the most current version of the resolution, a sponsor statement, and all backup information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me personally or my staff, Trevor Fulton, at x3579. Thank you for your time and consideration.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Co-Chair  
Senate Resources Committee

Chair  
Senate Special Committee on Energy  
Senate Special Committee on World Trade,  
Technology & Innovation

Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Joint Armed Services Committee

## SENATOR LESIL MCGUIRE

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### **SCR 1: *BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH: MARCH 2008***

SCR 1 aims to raise awareness about Traumatic Brain Injuries and the impact they have on Alaskans and their families.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is damage to the brain that results when the head is hit, strikes a stationary object, or is violently shaken. Alaska is the number one state per capita for brain injuries and TBI is one of the leading causes of death of young people in the state. Over 800 TBIs are reported annually and an estimated 12,000 Alaskans have suffered a TBI.

These injuries are often life altering and consequently place a tremendous strain on victims and their families. Victims often live with permanent disabilities and the tragedy of TBI is exacerbated by the fact that most TBIs are preventable.

The Brain Injury Association of America recognizes March of each year as Brain Injury Awareness Month; this resolution would comport with national recognition by making March 2009 Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month in Alaska.

Because TBI incidence in Alaska is on the rise, raising TBI awareness is more important now than it has ever been. TBIs are one of the most common injuries incurred in military combat today and as injured military personnel return home to Alaska the rate of TBIs is increasing sharply -- with no signs of slowing.

According to a task force on traumatic brain injury created by the Army Surgeon General, as many as one in five U.S. combat troops who fought in Iraq or Afghanistan leave with signs they may have had a TBI. The Walter Reed Army Medical Center reports that 60% of arriving service members from Iraq have a TBI from blasts, severe falls, and motor vehicle accidents. TBI screening at the National Naval Medical Center shows that 83% of wounded Marines treated at that facility have some form of temporary or permanent brain damage.

Rising TBI rates in Alaska is another reason in a long list of very good reasons to bring attention to this silent epidemic. So please join us in support of brain injury awareness, prevention, and treatment by supporting SCR 1.