

SSCR

7

<TARGET><BILL>SSCR 7</BILL><SUBJECT>SSCR
7</SUBJECT><COMM>HHSS27</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR KEVIN MEYER MAJORITY LEADER

TO: Representative Wes Keller, Chair
House Health & Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Kevin Meyer *Ki*

DATE: April 5, 2011

RE: House H&SS Request for Hearing SCR 7

This is a request for a House Health and Social Services Committee hearing for SCR 7, a resolution proclaiming September 9, 2011 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day.

The following documents are attached and will be sent electronically:

- Latest version of the bill: 27-LS0700\A
- Sponsor Statement
- Back up information
- Support Letters
- Staff member assigned to the bill: Christine R. Marasigan, 465-6876

This resolution would proclaim September 9, 2011 as FASD Awareness Day.

Please contact Christine if you have any questions regarding this legislation.

Alaska State Legislature



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Senator Kevin Meyer
Senate District O

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SCR 7

"Proclaiming September 9, 2011, as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day."

SCR 7 would proclaim September 9, 2011 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day (FASD).

Alaska has the highest known incidence of FASD in the United States. This is a condition caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol, which can result in permanent brain damage, birth defects, learning disabilities, behavioral problems and most tragically, the loss of individual potential.

While FASD affects all racial and socioeconomic groups, it is a 100% preventable condition. FASD Awareness Day is observed internationally on September 9th. This serves as a reminder on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol.

SCR 7 would observe FASD Awareness Day by promoting the awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol.

TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FAS

1. Drinking during pregnancy can cause permanent damage to a developing fetus.
2. FAS is one of the most common causes of mental retardation, and is the only cause that is entirely preventable.
3. According to recent State of Alaska DHSS surveillance data, more than 126 children are born at risk for FASD each year in Alaska.
4. Prenatal exposure to alcohol can cause brain damage and other permanent birth defects.
5. Obtaining an FAS diagnosis can improve an individual's ability to function in the world, and may reduce secondary disabilities like depression and school failure.
6. FASD is found in all races and all socio-economic groups – wherever women drink alcohol FASD exists.
7. There is no safe level of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.
8. Women should stop drinking prior to trying to conceive – alcohol can cause damage to a developing fetus even before a woman knows she is pregnant.
9. FASD is 100 percent preventable.
10. With the right diagnosis, support and understanding, many individuals with FASD are living happy and full lives.

Advisory Board on Alcoholism
and Drug Abuse



Alaska Mental Health Board

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

431 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE 200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 465-8920

March 30, 2011

Senator Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SCR 7 — FASD Awareness Day

Dear Senator Meyer,

The Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the Alaska Mental Health Board express their appreciation and support for SCR 7 declaring September 9, 2011 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day.

As you know, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are 100% preventable. Raising awareness and recognition of this fact will help prevent more Alaskan children from being born affected by prenatal alcohol exposure.

Even more importantly, SCR 7 will raise awareness of the special and often very individual needs of individuals diagnosed with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Too often the services and supports they need to thrive – at home, at school, and in their communities – are not available. By highlighting a day that focuses on the unique issues of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and their impact on Alaskans, we can not only support Alaskans with FASD, but also prevent future Alaskans from experiencing FASD.

Thank you for your continued work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

J. Kate Burkhart
Executive Director

Alaska FASD Partnership

**Over 75 organizations
and individuals
supporting:**

Advocacy ▪ *Diagnosis*

- *Case Management*
 - *Prevention*
- *Substance Abuse Treatment for Pregnant Women*
- *Parent Navigation*
- *Training for Parents*
- *Public Awareness*
 - *Alternatives to Incarceration*
- *Court Interpreters*
 - *Peer Support*
- *Training for Judges, Public Defenders, and Prosecutors*
 - *Training for Educators and Medical Professionals*
- *Traditional Healing*
- *Supported Housing and Employment*
 - *Family Support*



March 30, 2011

Senator Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Meyer,

The Alaska FASD Partnership wishes to offer its support for SCR 7, Proclaiming September 9, 2011 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day.

The Alaska FASD Partnership is a coalition of over 75 organizations and individuals committed to addressing issues related to FASD in Alaska.

Every year on September 9th, International FASD Awareness Day is observed. Proclamations are issued in countries, states, provinces, and towns all around the world. Bells are rung at 9:09 a.m. in every time zone from New Zealand to Alaska. People all around the world gather for events to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy and the plight of individuals and families who struggle with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. The first FASD Awareness Day was celebrated on 9/9/99. This day was chosen so that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world will remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol.

Thank you for introducing SCR 7 and supporting issues related to fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Sincerely,

Monica Charles Leinberger

Monica Charles Leinberger, Chair
Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee

Alaska FASD Partnership

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Treatment for

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and Prosecutors

▪ *Training for*

Educators and

Medical Professionals

▪ *Traditional Healing*

▪ *Supported Housing*

and Employment

▪ *Family Support*



Partnership Members

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) (Anchorage)

Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (statewide)

Alaska Behavioral Health Association (statewide)

Alaska Center for Children & Adults (Fairbanks)

Alaska Children's Services (Anchorage)

Alaska Mental Health Board (statewide)

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (statewide)

All-Alaska Pediatric Partnership (Anchorage)

Anchorage Coordinated Resources Project (Mental Health Court) (Anchorage)

Anchorage School District (Anchorage)

Arctic FASD Regional Training Center (Anchorage/statewide)

Assets Inc. (Anchorage)

Association for the Education of Young Children-SEAK (Southeast Alaska)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska (statewide)

Boys & Girls Home of Alaska (Fairbanks)

Camp Fire USA Alaska Council (statewide)

Christian Health Associates (Anchorage)

Copper Basin Neurodevelopmental Center (Anchorage)

Deltana Community Services Partnership (Delta Junction)

Dena A Coy/Southcentral Foundation (Anchorage)

Diocese of Juneau (Juneau)

Fairbanks Community Behavioral Health Center (Fairbanks)

Family Centered Services of Alaska (Fairbanks)

Gastineau Human Services (Juneau)

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (statewide)

Hoonah Indian Association (Hoonah)

Hope Community Resources (Kodiak)

Independent Living Center (Homer)

Kenai Peninsula FASD Program (Kenai Peninsula)

Ketchikan Indian Community (Ketchikan)

Kinetictions (Juneau)

Kobuk Valley Consulting (Kiana)

Kodiak Area Native Association (Kodiak)

Juneau Family Health and Birth Center (Juneau)

Juneau FASD Diagnostic Clinic (Juneau)

Juneau Partnership for Families and Children (Juneau)

Lower Kuskokwim School District (Bethel)

Lynn Canal Counseling Services (Haines)

Nenana City School District (Nenana)

Nome Youth Facility (Nome)

Nondalton Tribe (Nondalton)

Regional Wellness Forum (Seward Peninsula)

Set Free Alaska, Inc. (Wasilla)

Southcentral Foundation FAS Diagnostic Team (Anchorage)

Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC) (statewide)

Southern Kenai Peninsula (SKP) Communities Project (Kenai Peninsula)

Stone Soup Group (Anchorage, statewide)

Tongass Substance Screening (Ketchikan)

UAA Department of Health Sciences (Anchorage/statewide)

UAA Center for Human Development (Anchorage/statewide)

...and many individuals

Alaska Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Partnership
431 N. Franklin St. Suite 203, Juneau, Alaska 99801 ▪ (907) 465-8920
Webpage: www.hss.state.ak.us/fasd.htm ▪ email: akfasdpartnership@alaska.gov