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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim:
1500 West Benson Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 269-0199
Fax (907) 269-0197
Senator.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov



Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4945
Fax: (907) 465-3476
Toll Free: (866) 465-4945

SENATOR KEVIN MEYER SENATE DISTRICT M

TO: Senator Mike Dunleavy, Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator Kevin Meyer 

DATE: February 15, 2017

RE: Request for Hearing SCR 2
Proclaiming April 2017 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month

This is a request to the Senate State Affairs Committee to schedule a bill hearing for SCR which would proclaim April 2017 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The following documents are attached and will be sent electronically:

- Latest version of the bill: 30-LS0320\A
- Sponsor Statement
- Supporting Documents
 - Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence in the State of Alaska: Key Results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey
- Letter of Support:
 - Forthcoming
- Witness/Testimony:
 - Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Staff member assigned to the bill:
 - Christine R. Marasigan, christine.marasigan@akleg.gov, 465-6876

This resolution would proclaim April 2017 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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SENATOR KEVIN MEYER
SENATE DISTRICT M

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SCR 2

"Proclaiming April 2017 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month"

All Alaskans deserve a life free from violence. In our homes, in relationships, or in our communities, every individual should live a life without fear and with security and safety. This resolution encourages Alaskans to acknowledge and speak out against sexual assault as we join in unity to dispel the anger, self-blame, depression and anxiety that can be exhibited both emotionally and physically by those who have endured this terrible experience. This resolution emboldens Alaskans to declare that sexual assault of any kind will not be accepted.

SCR 2 also recognizes the dedicated work in Alaska of the volunteers, staff and agencies, who dedicate their lives to ensure victims have someone to talk to, a place to go, as well as many other services to help. These individuals and groups deserve our respect and support and we join them in removing the veil of secrecy and silence, and declare intolerance towards the crime of sexual assault in Alaska.

SCR 2 proclaims the month of April 2016 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Alaska.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR MEYER

Introduced: 2/8/17

Referred: State Affairs, Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming April 2017 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** sexual assault affects women, children, and men of all racial, cultural,
4 and economic backgrounds and occurs through acquaintance rape, stranger rape, sexual
5 assault by a partner, child sexual abuse, incest, sexual harassment, prostitution, and
6 pornography; and

7 **WHEREAS** the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's privacy, dignity,
8 security, and humanity and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars that can influence
9 every aspect of an individual's life; and

10 **WHEREAS** results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey show an estimated
11 33.1 out of every 100 Alaska women have experienced sexual assault within their lifetime;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey reflect alcohol- or
14 drug-involved sexual violence dropped from 26.8 percent in the 2010 survey to 22.6 percent;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, despite tremendous progress, Alaska still has the highest rates of sexual

1 violence in the nation; and

2 **WHEREAS** 2,126 children were evaluated by child advocacy centers in the state for
3 possible sexual abuse last year; and

4 **WHEREAS** 1,625 adult victims of sexual assault sought services at rape crisis centers
5 in the state last year; and

6 **WHEREAS** it is important to recognize the compassion, commitment, and dedication
7 of the individuals who provide services to sexual assault survivors and work to reduce and
8 eliminate sexual violence; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, 16 communities--Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Cordova,
10 Dillingham, Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Juneau, Kodiak, Kotzebue,
11 Nome, Palmer, Seward, Unalaska, and Valdez--have sexual assault response teams to
12 investigate more effectively crimes of sexual violence; and

13 **WHEREAS** research indicates the need to develop comprehensive sexual violence
14 prevention programs that target multiple, interacting risk and protective factors in
15 behaviorally relevant ways; and

16 **WHEREAS** communities across the state are taking up the challenge, implementing
17 evidence-based prevention programs, such as Girls on the Run, Coaching Boys into Men, and
18 Green Dot Alaska; and

19 **WHEREAS**, because one person, organization, agency, or community cannot, by
20 itself, eliminate sexual violence, the citizens of Alaska need to work together to educate the
21 entire population of the state about what can be done to eliminate sexual assault; and

22 **WHEREAS** schools across the state are implementing the Fourth R-healthy
23 relationships curriculum in grades seven through nine, which has been shown to reduce
24 adherence to rape myths and to enhance social and emotional learning focusing on self-
25 management and responsible decision-making; and

26 **WHEREAS** positive healthy male role models are engaging boys through programs
27 such as COMPASS to explore and adopt concepts of masculinity that include respect for
28 women and nonviolent models of manhood; and

29 **WHEREAS** victims, survivors, and their families deserve support; by uniting in this
30 effort, the citizens of this state can make a difference; last year over 3,100 volunteers devoted
31 48,483 hours of service in the state;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of
2 April 2017 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages all of the residents of the
3 state to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month by taking action to prevent sexual violence.



Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence in the State of Alaska: Key Results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey



Out of every 100 adult women who reside in the State of Alaska:

40 experienced intimate partner violence (IPV):



33 experienced sexual violence:



50 experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both:



These lifetime estimates come from a 2015 survey of adult women in the State of Alaska.
Source: UAA Justice Center, Alaska Victimization Survey, <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/avs>.

Purpose of the Survey

Every human being has the right to be safe and free from violence in their own homes, in their relationships, and in their community. Intimate partner violence and sexual violence are endemic problems. The Alaska Victimization Survey provides comprehensive statewide and regional data to guide planning and policy development and to evaluate the impact of prevention and intervention services. The 2015 survey was designed to provide estimates that could be compared to previous estimates from 2010. Results can be used to support prevention and intervention efforts that reduce violence against women.

Methodology

A total of 3,027 adult women in Alaska participated in the 2015 survey. Respondents were randomly selected by phone (using both land lines and cell phones) from May to August 2015. Respondents were asked behaviorally specific questions about intimate partner violence (both threats and physical violence). Intimate partners included romantic and sexual partners. Respondents were also asked about sexual violence (both alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault). These questions were not limited to intimate partners. Procedures were designed to maximize the safety and confidentiality of all respondents. The survey was approved by multiple institutional review boards and was supported by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Acknowledgments

We sincerely thank the 3,027 adult women in Alaska who invested time and effort to participate in this victimization survey. They re-lived horrendous experiences, experiences that no one should be subjected to, to help the rest of us understand the extent of intimate partner and sexual violence in Alaska. Funding for this project was provided by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The survey was administered by RTI International. Data were analyzed by the UAA Justice Center.

Important Limitations

The survey excluded non-English speaking women, women without phone access, and women not living in a residence. Estimates may be higher among women excluded from the survey. Estimates may also be conservative because of the continuing stigma of reporting victimization. This survey measured the number of *victims*, not the number of *victimizations*. In addition, not all forms of intimate partner violence or sexual violence were measured.

Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence in the State of Alaska: Key Results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey

Key Estimates

The following table shows the percentage of adult women in the State of Alaska who experienced each form of violence. Results from the 2015 survey are compared to results from 2010. All estimates were weighted to control for selection, non-response, and coverage. The 2015 estimates show that 50.3% of adult women in Alaska experienced sexual violence, intimate partner violence, or both, in their lifetime (versus 58.6% in 2010); and 8.1% experienced these forms of violence in the past year (versus 11.8% in 2010).

| Measures of Violence | Lifetime | | Past Year | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | 2010 | 2015 | 2010 | 2015 |
| Intimate partner violence (composite) | 47.6% | 40.4% | 9.4% | 6.4% |
| Threats of physical violence | 31.0% | 25.6% | 5.8% | 3.0% |
| Physical violence | 44.8% | 39.6% | 8.6% | 5.9% |
| Sexual violence (composite) | 37.1% | 33.1% | 4.3% | 2.9% |
| Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault | 26.8% | 22.6% | 3.6% | 2.0% |
| Forcible sexual assault | 25.6% | 23.5% | 2.5% | 1.6% |
| Any Violence (composite) | 58.6% | 50.3% | 11.8% | 8.1% |

Intimate Partner Violence Estimates:

The intimate partner violence composite includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence.

- 40.4% of adult women experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime (versus 47.6% in 2010).
 - 25.6% experienced threats of physical violence (versus 31.0% in 2010).
 - 39.6% experienced physical violence (versus 44.8% in 2010).
- 6.4% of adult women experienced intimate partner violence in the past year (versus 9.4% in 2010).
 - 3.0% experienced threats of physical violence (versus 5.8% in 2010).
 - 5.9% experienced physical violence (versus 8.6% in 2010).

Sexual Violence Estimates:

The sexual violence composite includes both alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

- 33.1% of adult women experienced sexual violence in their lifetime (versus 37.1% in 2010).
 - 22.6% experienced at least one alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault (versus 26.8% in 2010).
 - 23.5% experienced at least one forcible sexual assault (versus 25.6% in 2010).
- 2.9% of adult women experienced sexual violence in the past year (versus 4.3% in 2010).
 - 2.0% experienced at least one alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault (versus 3.6% in 2010).
 - 1.6% experienced at least one forcible sexual assault (versus 2.5% in 2010).

Conclusion

Half of adult women in Alaska have experienced violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 12 have experienced violence in the past year. Four in 10 have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 16 have experienced intimate partner violence in the past year. Three in 10 have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 34 have experienced sexual violence in the past year. Some women experienced violence more than once.

While the rates of violence against women in the State of Alaska are trending in the right direction, they remain unacceptably high.

Crime & Courts

New report offers a more in-depth look at Alaska's many sexual assault cases

Author: Devin Kelly

Updated: November 20, 2016

Published November 20, 2016

A new report from the state of Alaska paints perhaps the most detailed picture to date of sexual violence reported to law enforcement, showing that a huge disproportion of victims are between 11 and 17 years old, from Western Alaska and attacked by someone they knew whose age averaged only 22.

The report, a first-of-its-kind supplement to data sent by the state to the FBI, uses information not usually contained in FBI reports but was ordered to be studied by the Legislature in 2010.

That information includes the sex, age and relationship of victims and suspects, the location where crimes occurred and the weapons that were used, as first reported to authorities.

Hands, fists and feet were the most common weapons reported in rapes. Police were told the attacks most often occurred in homes. Caucasians were most likely to be the suspect in attacks on Caucasian and Asian women, while Alaska Natives were suspected in most attacks on other Alaska Natives. African-Americans were mostly likely to be suspected in attacks on African-Americans, but Caucasian victims were close behind.

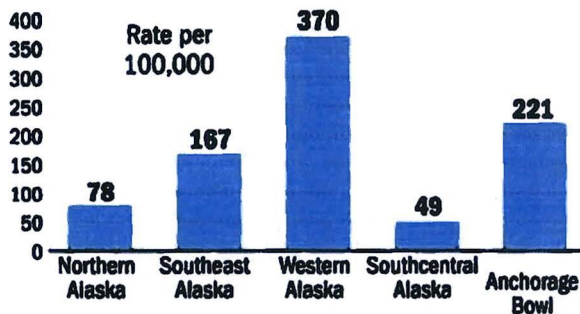
Anchorage — after Western Alaska, the second-highest region for the rate of reported rapes — is excluded from the demographic, weapon type and location data, leaving a gaping hole. Under state law, the information is voluntary, and Anchorage police declined to provide it for the report.

The Alaska Department of Public Safety official who supervises the division that commissioned the report said she hopes the information can contribute to a growing body of knowledge about sexual violence in the state.

Reported sexual assault incidents in Alaska for 2015

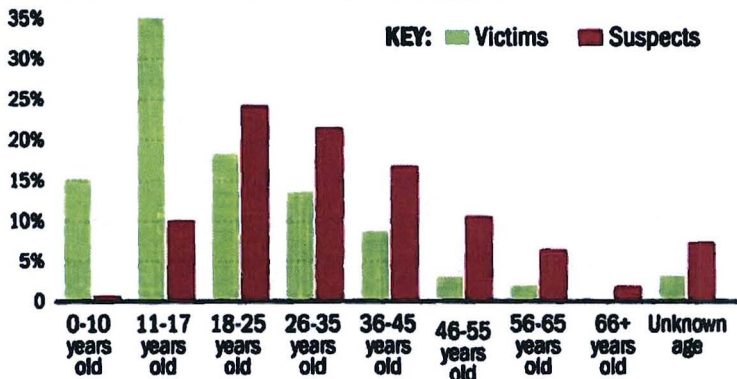
Rate by geographic area

Excludes incidents reported from specialized statewide agencies, such as the Alaska Bureau of Investigation or Alaska Wildlife Troopers due to the difficulty in determining the population those agencies represent.



By age of victims and suspects

Not all agencies provide victim and/or suspect information; the graphs are reflective of information provided by reporting agencies.



By relationship of victim to offender

Only includes incidents in which agencies provided victim/suspect relationship information. Counts reflect the number of relationships between victims and offenders, not the total number of victims and offenders. For example, 2 victims and 4 offenders would equal 8 relationships.

| Family | Counts | % | Otherwise known | Counts | % |
|---|--------|-----|-----------------------|--------------|----------|
| Child | 60 | 8.7 | Acquaintance | 194 | 28.1 |
| Other family member | 58 | 8.4 | Friend | 76 | 11.0 |
| Stepchild | 19 | 2.7 | Boyfriend/girlfriend | 60 | 8.7 |
| Sibling (brother or sister) | 18 | 2.6 | Otherwise unown | 45 | 6.5 |
| Child of boyfriend or girlfriend | 10 | 1.4 | Babysittee (the baby) | 10 | 1.4 |
| Grandchild | 8 | 1.2 | Neighbor | 6 | 0.9 |
| Spouse | 7 | 1.0 | Offender‡ | 4 | 0.6 |
| In-law | 3 | 0.4 | Employee | 2 | 0.3 |
| Parent | 3 | 0.4 | Employer | 1 | 0.1 |
| Stepsibling (stepbrother or stepsister) | 3 | 0.4 | Unknown | Count | % |
| Grandparent | 2 | 0.3 | Relationship unknown | 77 | 11.1 |
| Common-law spouse | 1 | 0.1 | Victim was stranger | 23 | 3.3 |
| Steparent | 1 | 0.1 | | | |

‡ "Victim was offender" is defined by the FBI NIBRS program as when the victim is also an offender in the incident. For example, a woman attacks a man with a knife (aggravated assault). She is subdued and raped by the man she attacked. In this case, the relationship may be listed as victim was offender.