

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

SCR 1

21



Relating to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Week.

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

WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects are a major health problem in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the most severe alcohol-related birth defect is fetal alcohol syndrome, which includes permanent growth retardation in weight, length, and head circumference; altered morphogenesis, especially characteristic facial abnormalities; and central nervous system damage, often with mental retardation; and

WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome is often accompanied by other severe medical problems such as heart defects or defects in other organs; and

WHEREAS pregnant women who consume alcohol also risk having babies with other mild or intense damage, called fetal alcohol effects, which may include central nervous system involvement with developmental delay, learning disabilities, behavioral problems, growth retardation, or abnormal facial characteristics; and

WHEREAS research has also shown that additional children of a woman who has previously given birth to a child with an alcohol-related birth defect will be born with alcohol-related birth defects in successively severe degrees if the woman continues to drink during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects can be totally prevented if pregnant women and women who plan to become pregnant abstain from alcohol consumption;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature

respectfully requests the Governor to proclaim May 14 - 20, 1989, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Week, and to request that schools, health care organizations and practitioners, and other public and private agencies and individuals observe the week with appropriate activities.