

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

SCR 44

Legislative  
Resolve No.

72



Relating to Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week.

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

WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome is the number two cause in the United States of birth defects accompanied by mental retardation, and the only preventable one; and

WHEREAS fetal alcohol syndrome results in permanent growth retardation, physical malformations, and permanent central nervous system damage, including developmental delay, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems, and is most often accompanied by mental retardation; and

WHEREAS pregnant women who consume alcohol also risk having children with fetal alcohol effects, which most often include permanent developmental delays, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems; and

WHEREAS alcohol-related birth defects have only recently been discovered to be a major health problem, and many questions regarding them remain unanswered; and

WHEREAS the latest research shows that children with fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects are often unable to live totally independent lives; and

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

WHEREAS, without exception, mothers of infants born with fetal alcohol syndrome consumed alcohol during pregnancy; and

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

WHEREAS the Surgeon General has issued an advisory that pregnant women and women who plan to become pregnant should not consume alcohol;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to proclaim May 13 - 19, 1990, Alcohol-Related Birth Defects 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.