

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1991

**Source**

HCS CSSJR 18(JUD)

**Legislative  
Resolve No.**

16



Relating to federal legislation against violence to women.

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

**WHEREAS** three out of four women in the United States will be victims of at least one violent crime during their lifetimes; and

**WHEREAS** the most serious crimes against women are rising at a significantly faster rate than the rate of total crime, and rape rates have risen nearly four times as fast as the total crime rate during the past decade; and

**WHEREAS** in the United States between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 women are beaten each year and a woman is beaten by her spouse or partner every 18 seconds; and

**WHEREAS** from 1974 to 1987 the national rate of assaults against young women jumped by 48 percent, while for men of the same age group it decreased by 12 percent; and

**WHEREAS** the rape rate in the state is one and one-half times the national rate; and

**WHEREAS** the state's domestic violence and sexual assault programs have seen a 23 percent increase in the number of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and a 44 percent increase in shelter nights in the past three years; and

**WHEREAS** last year alone there was a 27 percent increase in domestic violence cases

brought before the district courts of the state; and

**WHEREAS** on January 14, 1991, S.15, the Violence Against Women Act of 1991, was introduced into the United States Senate to combat violence and crimes against women on streets and in homes; and

**WHEREAS** S.15 is a comprehensive bill to address domestic violence and provides national leadership and funding for increased efforts by prosecutors, police, public safety departments, shelters, and rape crisis centers to provide effective prevention, intervention, and response to this growing national problem; and

**WHEREAS** on February 21, 1991, S.472, a bill that in part addresses the problem of domestic violence was introduced into the United States Senate to improve the reporting of sexual assaults at school campuses, fund education grants to reduce domestic violence and to create a national task force on violence against women.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature declares its support for prompt action by the United States Congress to enact comprehensive legislation to combat domestic and other violence against women, and urges the United States Congress to enact legislation encompassing the best and most enlightened provisions of both S.15 and Sec. 201 and Secs. 241 - 272 of S.472 in order to combat the growing national problem of violence against women.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.