

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1991

### Source

CSHCR 22(HES)

### Legislative Resolve No.

23



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 designates May 12 - 18, 1991, as Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week, and urges schools, health care organizations and practitioners, and other public and private agencies and individuals observe the week with appropriate activities.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the governing body of each school district and the chief executive officer of each hospital and health clinic in the state.