

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1995

Source
HCR 11

Legislative
Resolve No.
8



Designating March 1995 as Sobriety Awareness Month, commonly referred to as "SAM."

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

WHEREAS public and private agencies have identified substance abuse as a path to myriad social problems that have confronted Alaska communities and citizens for decades; and

WHEREAS the principal strategy in the past for solving these problems has been to focus more on the problem than on the solution; and

WHEREAS this strategy, although well intentioned, focuses too much on the substance and its abuses than on a solution that can

- (1) result in socially appropriate behaviors and choices that improve the quality of life and health of individuals, families, and communities;
- (2) reduce the incidence of alcohol and drug related crimes; and
- (3) reduce the burden on local, state, and federal governments that exhaust their resources on the symptoms and problems of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives created the AFN Sobriety Movement (AFNSM) to encourage and focus on sobriety as a solution because sobriety produces a positive, healthy, and productive way of life, free from the devastating effects of alcohol and drugs; and

WHEREAS sobriety is practiced by millions of people within the United States, as well

as abroad, and the Alaska Federation of Natives encourages and supports the grassroots sobriety movement, which is already growing in the state; and

WHEREAS the sobriety movement consists of the collective efforts of public agencies, private agencies, and private individuals to prevent and eradicate substance abuse; and

WHEREAS the AFNSM Council and the 55 AFNSM charter groups and honor societies, which consist of various local, regional, statewide, and nationwide agencies, have designated the month of March 1995 as Sobriety Awareness Month, commonly referred to as "SAM," in recognition of the thousands of men, women, and children who have signed a statement of sobriety that is being carried to Nome on the Iditarod Trail, and who are already doing their part to reach sobriety and the solution to the substance abuse problem.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature designates March 1995 as Sobriety Awareness Month to endorse sobriety as a solution to the substance abuse problem in the state and to pay tribute to the thousands of men, women, and children who are doing their part through sobriety to improve the quality of life and the health of themselves, their families, and their communities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Governor to issue a proclamation for the month and to direct state agencies in the executive branch to engage in suitable activities during Sobriety Awareness Month, and urges the citizens of the state to engage in suitable activities during March 1995 to observe Sobriety Awareness Month.