

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

1997

Source  
HCR 6

Legislative  
Resolve No.  
41



Relating to Alcohol-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week.

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

**WHEREAS** fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects, which are birth defects related to alcohol consumption by pregnant women, can be prevented if pregnant women and women who plan to become pregnant abstain from alcohol consumption; and

**WHEREAS** fetal alcohol syndrome results in permanent growth retardation, physical malformations, and permanent central nervous system damage, including developmental delays, 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** fetal alcohol syndrome is the number one identifiable cause in the United States of birth defects accompanied by mental retardation and the only preventable one; 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** the Surgeon General has issued an advisory that pregnant women and women who plan to become pregnant should not consume alcohol; and

**WHEREAS** the division of alcohol and drug abuse, Department of Health and Social Services, will be conducting a statewide campaign designed to increase awareness of fetal alcohol syndrome during the week of May 11 - 17, 1997; and

**WHEREAS** the legislature recognizes that the sobriety of fathers is also important to the well-being of their children and the healthy functioning of their families; and

**WHEREAS** the legislature wishes to acknowledge RurAL CAP's statewide activities against irresponsible use of alcohol during pregnancy;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages widespread involvement in RurAL CAP's Mother's Day Campaign, which is occurring during May 11 - 17, 1997; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to proclaim both the week of Mother's Day, May 11 - 17, 1997, and the week of Father's Day, June 15 - 21, 1997, 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 weeks with appropriate activities.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the governing body of each school district, the State Medical Board, the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives, the Board of Nursing, RurAL CAP, and the chief executive officer of each hospital and health clinic in the state.