

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2014

Source
SCR 20

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
39



Proclaiming April 2014 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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

WHEREAS sexual assault affects women, children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds and occurs through acquaintance rape, stranger rape, sexual assault by a partner, child sexual abuse, incest, sexual harassment, prostitution, and pornography; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that one in three women, one in four girls, one in six boys, and one in 11 men will report being victims of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity and leaves lasting physical and emotional scars that can influence every aspect of an individual's life; and

WHEREAS results from the Alaska Victimization Survey show an estimated 37 out of every 100 women in the state have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime, and it is important that sexual assault be recognized as a problem of epidemic proportions in every community in the state, whether urban, rural, or remote; and

WHEREAS results from the Alaska Fourth R pilot program show 30 percent of

female youths and 16 percent of male youths in the state reported lifetime sexual violence;
and

WHEREAS over 1,650 children were evaluated by child advocacy centers last year;
and

WHEREAS it is important to recognize the compassion, commitment, and dedication of the individuals who provide services to sexual assault survivors and who work to increase public understanding of the crime of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS speaking out against sexual assault is an important first step toward eliminating that devastating crime; and

WHEREAS research indicates the need to develop comprehensive sexual violence prevention programs that target multiple, interacting risk and protective factors in comprehensive and behaviorally relevant ways; and

WHEREAS, because one person, organization, agency, or community cannot eliminate sexual violence alone, citizens of the state need to work together to educate the entire population of the state about what can be done personally to eliminate sexual assault, to support victims, survivors, and their families, and to increase support for agencies that provide services to survivors; by uniting in this effort, citizens of the state can make a difference;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims April 2014 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages citizens of the state to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month by speaking out against sexual assault, listening to those who have been harmed, and letting others know that sexual assault will not be tolerated.