

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2015

Source
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**Legislative
Resolve No.**
10



Proclaiming April 2015 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 abilities, and occurs through acquaintance rape, date rape, stranger rape, sexual assault by a partner, child sexual abuse, incest, sexual harassment, prostitution, and pornography; and

WHEREAS the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's sense of self, privacy, dignity, security, and humanity, and leaves long-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 Alaska women have experienced sexual assault within their lifetime; and

WHEREAS over 1,450 children were evaluated by child advocacy centers in the state for possible sexual abuse last year; and

WHEREAS approximately 1,400 adult victims of sexual assault sought services at rape crisis centers in the state 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 work to increase public understanding of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, first responders from 19 communities--Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Cordova, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Homer, Hoonah, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Mat-Su, Nome, Petersburg, Seward, Sitka, and Unalaska--participated in Sexual Assault Response Team training; and

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

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

WHEREAS communities across the state are taking up the challenge, implementing evidence-based prevention programming such as Girls on the Run, Coaching Boys into Men, and Green Dot Alaska; and

WHEREAS because one person, organization, agency, or community cannot, by itself, eliminate sexual violence, the citizens of Alaska need to work together to educate the entire population of the state about what can be done to eliminate sexual assault; and

WHEREAS schools across the state are implementing the Fourth R-healthy relationships curricula in grades 7 through 9, which has been shown to reduce adherence to rape myths that blame the victim and to enhance social and emotional learning, which focuses on self-management and responsible decision-making; and

WHEREAS positive healthy male role models are engaging boys through programs such as COMPASS to explore and adopt concepts of masculinity that include respect for women and nonviolent models of manhood; and

WHEREAS victims, survivors, and their families deserve support; by uniting in this effort, the citizens of this state can make a difference; last year approximately 3,000 volunteers devoted 75,233 hours of service in the state;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of April 2015 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages all of the 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.