



## *Fighting Alaska's alcohol problems*

Sen. John Binkley, R-Bethel, has introduced a package of 10 bills this session, aimed at taking positive steps to fight alcohol abuse — especially focusing on the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects.

They include:

- Senate Concurrent Resolution 44 — To proclaim the week of May 13-19 Alaska-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week.

- Senate Concurrent Resolution 45 — To request the Alaska State Medical Association and the Alaska Nurses Association to investigate the possibility of requiring appropriate continuing medical education courses to keep their practitioners aware of causes and effects of alcohol-related birth defects.

- Senate Bill 407 — To establish a state priority in the treatment of persons for alcoholism, drug abuse, inhalant abuse and intoxication. The priority would be for people whose actions could harm others, including fetuses, over those who could only affect themselves.

- Senate Bill 408 — To require health care providers to report cases of fetal alcohol syndrome in a confidential report.

- Senate Bill 409 — To require school districts and Regional Educational Attendance Areas to provide in-service training for teachers and other school personnel on ways to work with FAS/FAE children.

- Senate Bill 410 — To require that warning signs about the effects of alcohol consumed during pregnancy have lettering at least 1/2 inch high.

- Senate Bill 411 — To require that mail order shipments of alcoholic beverages by package liquor stores contain brochures warning about FAS and FAE.

- Senate Bill 412 — To distribute information on the health effects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy to marriage license applicants.

- Senate Bill 413 — To ensure that training in the alcohol field include FAS/FAE training if student loan funds are used to pay for costs.

- Senate Bill 414 — To authorize a petition process to commit to treatment programs pregnant women who are alcoholics.

Each one of these bills deserves support because each is one more statewide effort to fight the tragic effects of alcohol abuse. We urge Alaskans who support this legislation to contact either their legislators or Binkley.