

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES LYNN, Thompson, Saddler, LeDoux

Introduced: 1/21/14

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Opposing cuts to retirement benefits owed to members of the armed services of the**
2 **United States; and urging the United States Congress to approve legislation allowing**
3 **members of the armed services of the United States to receive promised retirement**
4 **benefits.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress has cut more than \$6 billion in retirement
7 benefits owed to American men and women who are under 62 years of age and who earned
8 the retirement benefits by honorably and voluntarily serving as members of the armed forces
9 of the United States; and

10 **WHEREAS** that cut affects persons who have served as members of the armed forces
11 of the United States, including persons who are eligible for medical retirement because of
12 battlefield injuries; and

13 **WHEREAS** that cut affects the spouses and children of American warriors, as well as
14 the warriors themselves; and

15 **WHEREAS** American men and women have served admirably in the armed forces of

1 the United States during some of our nation's most troubling times; and

2 **WHEREAS**, time and time again, members of the armed forces of the United States
3 have borne the cost of fiscal recklessness by the United States Congress; and

4 **WHEREAS** American men and women who have served in the armed forces of the
5 United States have already sacrificed so much on behalf of our nation that the United States
6 Congress should not put additional burdens on them; and

7 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress should keep its promises and should do
8 everything possible to maintain the sacred vow our nation has made to those who have
9 honorably served in the armed forces of the United States; and

10 **WHEREAS** requiring persons who have served or are now serving in the armed
11 forces of the United States to sacrifice promised retirement benefits is unjustified; and

12 **WHEREAS** people and military organizations everywhere should lend their voices to
13 a forceful call to restore those retirement benefits to persons who have served in the armed
14 forces of the United States;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes cutting retirement
16 benefits the nation promised to members of the armed forces of the United States; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the
18 United States and the United States Congress to exempt disabled veterans from these cuts;
19 and be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
21 Congress to pass legislation that allows persons who have served as members of the armed
22 forces of the United States to receive promised retirement benefits.

23 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
24 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
25 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of
26 Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
27 Honorable Chuck Hagel, United States Secretary of Defense; and the Honorable Lisa
28 Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
29 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.