

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 61

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/8/96

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

**1 Opposing the proposed changes in the functions of the federal Office of Veterans
2 Affairs in Anchorage.**

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

4 WHEREAS, with roughly 73,000 veterans, Alaska ranks second among the states for
5 its proportion of veterans and that proportion is increasing more than in any other state
6 because of the downsizing of the state's military installations and the relocation of discharged
7 military personnel within the state; and

8 WHEREAS the veterans in Alaska deserve to have personal access to and consultation
9 with federal personnel when they file and process claims relating to their veteran status,
10 including the claims of their families; and

11 WHEREAS the processing time for veterans' claims in the Anchorage office currently
12 ranks sixth among 57 regional offices; and

13 WHEREAS that processing time and personal access would be disastrously affected
14 by federal proposals to downsize the Anchorage office by moving the function of adjudicating
15 compensation and pension matters to Reno, Nevada, and Phoenix, Arizona, which are
16 thousands of miles away from where the Alaska veterans live;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly opposes federal
2 proposals to downsize the Anchorage office by shifting some of its functions to other states.
3 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
4 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
5 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; Mr. Carroll Williams, Director,
6 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Washington, D.C.; and Mr. Alonzo M.
7 Poteet III, Director, Veterans Affairs and Medical Regional Office Center, Anchorage, Alaska.