

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS TAYLOR, Miller, Pearce, Leman, Kelly, Duncan, Donley

REPRESENTATIVES Kubina, Mulder, Austerman, Dyson, Croft, Ryan, Nicholia

Introduced: 3/5/97

Referred: Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

**1 Relating to naming Anchorage as the location of the 2001 Special Olympics World
2 Winter Games.**

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

4 WHEREAS it is the mission of Special Olympics International to provide year-round
5 sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic sports for children eight years
6 of age and older and adults with mental retardation, giving them continuing opportunities to
7 develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience the joy of competition, and
8 participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special
9 Olympics athletes, and the community; and

10 WHEREAS the Special Olympics World Winter Games play a crucial role in the
11 fulfillment of the Special Olympics' mission; and

12 WHEREAS a Special Olympics World Winter Games Committee has been organized
13 in Anchorage, with United States Senator Ted Stevens as its honorary chair; and

14 WHEREAS Anchorage has in place the facilities necessary to host the 2001 Special
15 Olympics World Winter Games and has selected the theme "Enlightening the World with the
16 Spirit of Brave Heart"; and

1 **WHEREAS** the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games would bring as many
2 as 6,600 athletes, coaches, delegates, family members, volunteers, and dignitaries to Alaska
3 during the winter months for 10 days; and

4 **WHEREAS** hosting the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games would leave the
5 Special Olympics program in Alaska bigger and stronger, expand the program to the
6 indigenous people of Alaska, and leave permanent improvements to existing winter sports
7 facilities;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the Special Olympics
9 World Winter Games Committee in its efforts to have Anchorage selected as the site for the
10 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games of Special Olympics International.

11 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder, Special
12 Olympics International; to the Honorable Ted Stevens, Honorary Chair, Special Olympics
13 World Winter Games Committee; to the Honorable Rick Mystrom, Mayor of Anchorage; and
14 to Patti McGuire, Chair, Special Olympics World Winter Games Committee of Anchorage.