

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36(HES) am**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Amended: 4/23/99**

**Offered: 4/19/99**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES DYSON, Ogan, Harris, Coghill, Kohring, Green, Barnes**

**SENATORS Halford, Taylor, Green, Miller, Leman, Pearce, Pete Kelly**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to rejecting the conclusions in a recent article published by the American**  
**2 Psychological Association that suggests that sexual relationships between adults**  
**3 and children might be positive for children; and urging the President of the**  
**4 United States and the United States Congress to similarly reject these**  
**5 conclusions.**

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

**7 WHEREAS** children are a precious gift and responsibility; and

**8 WHEREAS** the spiritual, physical, and mental well-being of children is our sacred  
**9 duty; and**

**10 WHEREAS** no segment of our society is more critical to the future of human survival  
**11 and society than our children; and**

**12 WHEREAS** it is the obligation of all public policymakers not only to support but also  
**13 to defend the health and rights of parents, families, and children; and**

**14 WHEREAS** information endangering to children is being made public and, in some  
**15 instances, may be given unwarranted or unintended credibility through release under**

1 professional titles or through professional organizations; and

2       **WHEREAS** elected officials have a duty to inform and counter actions they consider  
3 damaging to children, parents, families, and society; and

4       **WHEREAS** Alaska has made sexual molestation of a child a felony and has declared  
5 parents who sexually molest their children to be unfit; and

6       **WHEREAS** virtually all studies in this area, including those published by the  
7 American Psychological Association, condemn child sexual abuse as criminal and harmful to  
8 children; and

9       **WHEREAS** the American Psychological Association has recently published, but did  
10 not endorse, a study that suggests that sexual relationships between adults and willing children  
11 are less harmful than believed and might even be positive for "willing" children;

12       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature condemns and denounces all  
13 suggestions in the recently published study by the American Psychological Association that  
14 indicates sexual relationships between adults and willing children are less harmful than  
15 believed and might even be positive for "willing" children; and be it

16       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
17 Congress and the President of the United States to likewise reject and condemn, in the  
18 strongest honorable written and vocal terms possible, any suggestion that sexual relations  
19 between children and adults are anything but abusive, destructive, exploitive, reprehensible,  
20 and punishable by law; and be it

21       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages competent  
22 investigations to continue to research the effects of child sexual abuse using the best  
23 methodology so that the public and public policymakers may act upon accurate information.

24       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the  
25 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President  
26 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the  
27 Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable  
28 David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., Surgeon General of the United States; and to the Honorable Ted  
29 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,  
30 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.