

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/29/01

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to extend the authorization date for supplemental**
2 **block grants to the State of Alaska under the Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy**
3 **Families Program.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant
6 program established in the 1996 federal welfare reform legislation, the Personal
7 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), included
8 modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states; and

9 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska was awarded a supplemental grant because the state's
10 population increased by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990, and July 1, 1994; and

11 **WHEREAS** the supplemental grants included in PRWORA were authorized only
12 through federal fiscal year 2001, while the remainder of the law was authorized through
13 federal fiscal year 2002; and

14 **WHEREAS**, because the supplemental grants will expire, Alaska will face a reduction
15 in its TANF funding in the amount of \$6,887,800, or 13 percent of its block grant, starting at

1 the beginning of federal fiscal year 2002 on October 1, 2001; and

2 **WHEREAS** the elimination of the supplemental TANF grant could force Alaska to
3 scale back its welfare reform efforts, which have been very successful in moving people off
4 welfare, into work, and out of poverty; and

5 **WHEREAS** the TANF block grant provides a broad range of services to Alaskans
6 through the Alaska temporary assistance program, including cash benefits, child care, case
7 management, job development, job training and placement, program administration,
8 transportation, and other supportive services; and

9 **WHEREAS** the TANF block grant provides other essential services to needy
10 Alaskans not receiving welfare, including child care, child protection, victims of domestic
11 violence, the Healthy Family program, pregnancy prevention, and teen parent services; and

12 **WHEREAS** the elimination of the supplemental TANF grant will also result in the
13 loss of federal funding to some or all of these programs and services;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls upon the United States
15 Congress to continue the TANF supplemental block grants through federal fiscal year 2002,
16 the end of the full TANF authorization period.

17 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
18 of the United States; the Honorable Tommy Thompson, United States Secretary of Health and
19 Human Services; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
20 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
21 delegation in Congress; and to all the other members of the 107th United States Congress.