

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39 am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GALVIN, Hannan, Edgmon, Hall, Frier, Mears, Eischeid, Story, Gray, Josephson, Fields, Saddler, Kopp, Foster, Bynum, Stutes, Schrage, Mina

SENATORS Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Cronk, Yundt, Olson, Stevens

**Amended: 3/18/26
Introduced: 2/23/26**

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the federal government to waive the new H-1B Visa fees for teachers in the state.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** many school districts in the state, particularly those located in rural and
4 remote communities, face persistent shortages of qualified educators, especially in critical
5 subject areas, including math, science, and special education, which creates significant
6 challenges to maintaining consistent and high-quality instruction; and

7 **WHEREAS** a growing number of school districts in the state have hired international
8 educators through the H-1B visa process to address shortages and expand workforce capacity;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** a 2025 executive order raised the cost of H-1B visas to \$100,000 a
11 person, which threatens to impose significant financial hurdles for schools and employers in
12 the state; and

13 **WHEREAS**, currently, the state employs close to 500 international educators working
14 in schools on visas; and

15 **WHEREAS** implementation of the 2025 executive order could result in the state
16 facing the difficult choice of paying millions of dollars for visa recipients or going without

1 these needed teachers; and

2 **WHEREAS** ongoing teacher vacancies across the state have affected thousands of
3 students, particularly in rural and remote communities where staffing challenges are most
4 severe; and

5 **WHEREAS** time is of the essence, as state school districts must begin hiring now to
6 secure educators in time for the fall school year; and

7 **WHEREAS** the state is committed to providing students with a high-quality
8 education, ensuring each student has the opportunity to succeed academically and reach their
9 full potential; and

10 **WHEREAS** recruitment and retention of qualified educators is essential to the success
11 of the state's educational institutions and the long-term sustainability and well-being of our
12 communities and economy;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to
14 waive the \$100,000 H-1B visa fee for individuals being hired as educators in the state.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
16 of the United States; the Honorable JD Vance, Vice President of the United States and
17 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Linda McMahon, United States Secretary of
18 Education; the Honorable Markwayne Mullin, Acting United States Secretary of Homeland
19 Security; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators,
20 and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
21 in Congress.