

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE NELSON

Introduced: 4/14/25

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

A RESOLUTION

1 **Encouraging the United States Congress to establish hiring goals for apprentices and**
2 **veteran apprentices.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** Americans have a special obligation to those who served in the armed
5 forces of the United States and risked their lives to defend our nation's freedom and honor;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS** thousands of men and women have served in the armed forces of the
8 United States to protect and preserve the freedom that the citizens of the United States enjoy;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** veterans have graduated from the world's largest system of specialized
11 professional and technical training schools, operated by the United States Department of
12 Defense; and

13 **WHEREAS** veterans of active duty military service are one of the nation's most
14 important sources of well-educated, highly trained, and strongly motivated employees; and

15 **WHEREAS** veterans trained by the armed forces of the United States offer employers
16 a more mature and responsible employee compared to employees with no military

1 experience; and

2 **WHEREAS** veterans returning home face challenges, including in education and
3 employment, that may prevent them from successfully transitioning from military to civilian
4 life; and

5 **WHEREAS** veterans transition training programs have successfully reduced
6 incidences of veteran suicide; and

7 **WHEREAS** unemployment rates for both male and female veterans increased in early
8 2025; the unemployment rate for male veterans is four percent, and the unemployment rate
9 for female veterans is 4.5 percent; and

10 **WHEREAS** among the unemployed veterans in 2024, 60 percent were ages 25 to 54,
11 35 percent were age 55 and over, and five percent were ages 18 to 24; and

12 **WHEREAS** the state has the highest rate of veterans in the nation, with nearly 14
13 percent of adult Alaskans having served in the military; and

14 **WHEREAS** the 2025 draft federal appropriations report for the United States
15 Department of Defense indicates that \$18,000,000,000 will be spent on military construction
16 that will require thousands of workers; and

17 **WHEREAS** military construction jobs offer a prime opportunity for veterans,
18 including veterans in apprenticeship and postsecondary programs, to further their careers; and

19 **WHEREAS** military service is one of the most demanding professions in the world,
20 and military training produces highly motivated individuals who set high goals for
21 themselves;

22 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully encourages the
23 United States Congress to introduce and pass legislation requiring each offeror for a domestic
24 United States Department of Defense construction project to establish a goal that not less than
25 10 percent of the total workforce employed in the performance of the project are participants
26 in qualified apprenticeship or postsecondary programs; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully encourages
28 the United States Congress to introduce and pass legislation requiring each contractor and
29 subcontractor for a domestic United States Department of Defense construction project that
30 employs apprentices or postsecondary students in a particular classification to ensure that not
31 less than 10 percent of the apprentices or postsecondary students are veterans of the armed

1 forces of the United States.

2 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
3 of the United States; the Honorable JD Vance, Vice President of the United States and
4 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of
5 Representatives; the Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of
6 Representatives; the Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
7 Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Douglas
8 Collins, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
9 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S.
10 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the
11 119th United States Congress.