

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES RAMRAS, Gruenberg

Introduced: 3/13/09

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

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to**
2 **extend the basic housing allowance exclusion to all military families for purposes of the**
3 **school nutrition program.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** all children need healthful meals for cognitive development, perception,
6 thinking, and learning; and

7 **WHEREAS** studies show that malnutrition results in decreased activity levels,
8 decreased social interaction, decreased curiosity, and decreased cognitive functioning in
9 children; and

10 **WHEREAS** research shows that poorly nourished children have more problems
11 fighting infections and, therefore, may become sick more often, miss more school, and fail to
12 keep up with classmates; and

13 **WHEREAS** studies show that children who regularly eat breakfast have better
14 standardized test scores and better behavior and are less hyperactive than children who do not
15 have breakfast; and

1 **WHEREAS** eating a healthful lunch helps keep a child's mind sharp all afternoon;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS** children benefit from the federal nutrition programs that include the
4 National School Lunch Program (42 U.S.C. 1751), the After School Snack Program (42
5 U.S.C. 1788), and the School Breakfast Program (42 U.S.C. 1773) that offer free or reduced
6 price meals to eligible school age children whose household size and income are below the
7 eligibility level established for those programs; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act was amended by the
9 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(13)) to exclude a
10 specified housing allowance from consideration as income in making an eligibility
11 determination for federal school nutrition programs; and

12 **WHEREAS** the exclusion from income of a military housing allowance applies only
13 to private housing located on-base; and

14 **WHEREAS** an income exclusion is not available for children of service members
15 living in housing off-base that is part of the general commercial and private real estate market;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS** the basic housing allowance for off-base housing makes many military
18 families ineligible for the federal school nutrition programs; and

19 **WHEREAS**, because service members are expected to be available 24 hours a day,
20 they are unable to hold second jobs, and their income is limited to military income;

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
22 Department of Agriculture, Western Region, and the United States Congress to extend the
23 military housing allowance exclusion from income in establishing eligibility for school
24 nutrition programs to all military families receiving a military housing allowance, whether
25 they live on-base or off-base.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States
27 Secretary of Agriculture, the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich,
28 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
29 delegation in Congress.