

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE NELSON**

**Introduced: 2/16/22**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs**

**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 the citizens of the United States enjoy; and

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

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

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

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

4           **WHEREAS** unemployment rates for both male and female veterans increased in 2020  
5 during the COVID-19 pandemic; the unemployment rate for male veterans was 6.5 percent,  
6 and the unemployment rate for female veterans was 6.7 percent; and

7           **WHEREAS** among the 581,000 unemployed veterans in 2020, 54 percent were ages  
8 25 to 54, 41 percent were age 55 and over, and 5 percent were ages 18 to 24; and

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

11           **WHEREAS** the 2022 draft federal appropriations report for the United States  
12 Department of Defense indicates that \$10,900,000,000 will be spent on military construction  
13 that will require thousands of workers; and

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

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

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

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

30           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President  
31 of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States

1 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of  
2 Representatives; the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of  
3 Representatives; the Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the  
4 Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Denis  
5 McDonough, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and  
6 the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
7 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the  
8 117th United States Congress.