



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

# Representative Genevieve Mina

Member, House Health and Social Services Committee

Member, House Transportation Committee

*Serving House District 19: Airport Heights, Mountain View, & Russian Jack*

## Sponsor Statement

### HJR 4

*“Honoring the Alaska-Korea relationship; and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea, the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement, and the 120th anniversary of the first Korean immigration to the United States.”*

HJR 4 honors the unique relationship and shared history between the State of Alaska and the Republic of Korea. Korean immigrants came to Alaska to work in the fishing and canning industries, forming tight-knit communities and social institutions. The Korean-American community is a vital part of Alaska's diversity. They serve as Alaska as military personnel, police officers, fire fighters, nurses and doctors, teachers, business owners, public servants, and more - contributing their talents to Alaska's safety, diversity, and unity.

Additionally, the government of South Korea has served as an important partner in national security and trade. The Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953 between the United States and the Republic of Korea strengthened the defense of both countries against external threats, particularly from North Korea. The Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is a growing hub for air cargo to and from the Republic of Korea, and Alaska has become an important destination for thousands of Korean tourists each year. Since 1986, the Municipality of Anchorage and Incheon Metropolitan City have been sister cities, leading to economic opportunities and increased cultural exchange between the two regions.

House Joint Resolution 4 seeks to honor and celebrate the friendly and beneficial relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea, and the unique role Alaska has in that relationship.

Session: State Capitol Room 420 • Juneau, AK 99801-1182 • (907) 465-3424

Interim: 1500 W. Benson Blvd. • Anchorage, AK 99503

*Rep.Genevieve.Mina@akleg.gov*