

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1978

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

HJR 47 am S

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Relating to bilingualism in federal proceedings.

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### BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS during hearings in Barrow in September 1977, sponsored by the U. S. Department of Commerce on the whaling ban, the Inupiaq Eskimos were initially discouraged from testifying in their own language; and

WHEREAS whaling activities are the cornerstone of village life politically, socially, economically, and culturally; and

WHEREAS the specifics of these activities have been transmitted verbally among generations over thousands of years and are best understood within the context of the Inupiaq language; and

WHEREAS the fundamental concept of due process provides that a person be allowed to speak in his self defense before being deprived of an essential means of obtaining a livelihood and in the face of profound cultural change;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the President is respectfully requested to direct federal agencies to make provisions for persons to testify in their Native languages during federal proceedings which affect Native people

A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.