

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES FINKELSTEIN, Brown

Introduced: 3/10/95

Referred: House Special Committee on World Trade and State/Federal Relations, State Affairs, Labor and Commerce, Finance

A RESOLUTION

**1 Urging Congress to enact legislation to implement the President's proposed increase
2 in the National Minimum Wage Standard.**

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

4 WHEREAS the President has proposed to increase the national minimum
5 wage from \$4.25 an hour to \$5.15 an hour over the course of two years, by
6 implementing two \$.45 increases; and

7 WHEREAS, under this proposal and in accordance with AS 23.10.065(a), the
8 state minimum wage would increase during the same period from \$4.75 an hour to
9 \$5.65 an hour; and

10 WHEREAS a single Alaskan working at minimum wage for 40 hours a
11 week takes home only approximately \$150 a week, which is extremely difficult to
12 live on given the state's high cost of food, housing, and medical care; and

13 WHEREAS, for a full-time, year-round worker, a \$.90 an hour increase
14 would raise yearly income by about \$1,800; and

15 WHEREAS, if the minimum wage remains at its current level, it will be
16 at a 40-year low in terms of real buying power; and

1 **WHEREAS** an increased minimum wage would provide a strong incentive for
2 work over welfare; and

3 **WHEREAS** United States Department of Labor studies show that moderate
4 increases in the minimum wage do not have a significant impact on employment;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
6 Congress to enact legislation to implement the President's proposed increase in the
7 minimum wage so that all Americans can benefit from our nation's economy.

8 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton,
9 President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the
10 United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich,
11 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert Reich, U.S.
12 Secretary of Labor; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
13 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
14 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.