

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR TAYLOR

Introduced: 2/16/98

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to improving reading instruction in elementary and secondary schools.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** illiteracy is growing at an alarming rate throughout the United States; and

4 **WHEREAS** 24,000,000 adult Americans cannot read and another 50,000,000 are
5 limited to a fourth or fifth grade reading level; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Reading Excellence Act has been introduced in the United States
7 Congress as S.B. 1596 and would provide \$210,000,000 for research supporting the use of
8 phonics, for teacher training, and for individual grants for primary and secondary reading
9 instruction; and

10 **WHEREAS** the use of intensive phonics instruction in the elementary education
11 curriculum would be an effective tool for improving reading skills in the public school system;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the enactment of S.B.
13 1596, the Reading Excellence Act, and urges the United States Congress to approve the
14 measure as soon as possible.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
16 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
17 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.