

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KEMPLER

Introduced: 4/24/97

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the United States Senate to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention
2 at the earliest possible date.

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

4 WHEREAS President Ronald Reagan, President George Bush, and President Bill
5 Clinton have all supported the Chemical Weapons Convention, an international agreement to
6 ban the development, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical weapons; and

7 WHEREAS there are many Alaskans with family members who are in the Armed
8 Services that risk coming into contact with chemical weapons; and

9 WHEREAS the Chemical Weapons Convention is supported by General John
10 Shalikashvili, General Colin Powell, General Norman Schwarzkopf, and former United States
11 Senator Bob Dole; and

12 WHEREAS the United States is in the process of destroying its stockpile of chemical
13 weapons; and

14 WHEREAS the Pentagon recently acknowledged that troops in the Persian Gulf War
15 may have been exposed to chemical weapons; and

16 WHEREAS it is noncombatants, such as women and children, who often suffer the

1 most significant exposure to chemical weapons either during or after warfare; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Chemical Weapons Convention represents the first global effort to rid
3 the world of chemical weapons; and

4 **WHEREAS** 160 nations have signed the treaty to not develop, stockpile, transfer, or
5 use chemical weapons and to destroy existing chemical weapons and chemical weapons
6 production facilities; and

7 **WHEREAS** the treaty will isolate nonparticipating countries, such as Libya, North
8 Korea, and Iraq, and impose strict restrictions on their chemical imports and exports; and

9 **WHEREAS** the Chemical Manufacturers Association supports the treaty, indicating
10 that, if the United States does not ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention, this lack of action
11 could cost the industry hundreds of millions of dollars; and

12 **WHEREAS** a recent public opinion survey showed 84 percent of Americans are in
13 support of the treaty; and

14 **WHEREAS**, if the United States Senate does not ratify the Chemical Weapons
15 Convention, the United States would not be involved in the implementation of the treaty,
16 would not serve on the executive committee, or have members on the inspection teams; and

17 **WHEREAS** Senator Ted Stevens has indicated his strong support for the Chemical
18 Weapons Convention;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States Senate is
20 strongly encouraged to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention at the earliest possible date.

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