

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/19/99

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES DYSON, Ogan, Harris, Coghill, Kohring, Green, Barnes

A RESOLUTION

**1 Relating to rejecting the conclusions in a recent article published by the American
2 Psychological Association that suggests that sexual relationships between adults
3 and children might be positive for children; and urging the President of the
4 United States and the United States Congress to similarly reject these
5 conclusions.**

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

7 WHEREAS children are a precious gift and responsibility; and

8 WHEREAS the spiritual, physical, and mental well-being of children is our sacred
9 duty; and

10 WHEREAS no segment of our society is more critical to the future of human survival
11 and society than our children; and

12 WHEREAS it is the obligation of all public policymakers not only to support but also
13 to defend the health and rights of parents, families, and children; and

1 **WHEREAS** information endangering to children is being made public and, in some
2 instances, may be given unwarranted or unintended credibility through release under
3 professional titles or through professional organizations; and

4 **WHEREAS** elected officials have a duty to inform and counter actions they consider
5 damaging to children, parents, families, and society; and

6 **WHEREAS** Alaska has made sexual molestation of a child a felony and has declared
7 parents who sexually molest their children to be unfit; and

8 **WHEREAS** virtually all studies in this area, including those published by the
9 American Psychological Association, condemn child sexual abuse as criminal and harmful to
10 children; and

11 **WHEREAS** the American Psychological Association has recently published a study
12 that suggests that sexual relationships between adults and willing children are less harmful
13 than believed and might even be positive for "willing" children;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature condemns and denounces all
15 suggestions in the recently published study by the American Psychological Association that
16 indicates sexual relationships between adults and willing children are less harmful than
17 believed and might even be positive for "willing" children; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
19 Congress and the President of the United States to likewise reject and condemn, in the
20 strongest honorable written and vocal terms possible, any suggestion that sexual relations
21 between children and adults are anything but abusive, destructive, exploitive, reprehensible,
22 and punishable by law; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages competent
24 investigations to continue to research the effects of child sexual abuse using the best
25 methodology so that the public and public policymakers may act upon accurate information.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
27 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
28 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
29 Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable
30 David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., Surgeon General of the United States; and to the Honorable Ted
31 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,

- 1 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.