

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS DONLEY, Halford, Leman, Kelly, Taylor, Ward, Cowdery, Phillips, Therriault, Austerman, Green

Introduced: 2/28/01

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to requesting that President Bush renounce and reverse Clinton**
2 **Administration anti-gun-ownership policies and reorient the United States Department**
3 **of Justice towards policies that accurately reflect the intent of the Second Amendment to**
4 **the United States Constitution to grant individual Americans the right to keep and bear**
5 **arms.**

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

7 **WHEREAS** the founding fathers considered popular ownership of firearms by private
8 citizens to be a natural right and one of the surest safeguards against tyranny and
9 governmental excesses; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution recognizes and
11 protects the inalienable right of American citizens to keep and bear arms; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in 1994, art. I, sec. 19, Constitution of the State of Alaska, was amended
13 by an overwhelming majority to specifically protect an Alaskan's individual right to keep and
14 bear arms; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Clinton Administration's stance on gun ownership moved
2 dangerously in the direction of abridging or eliminating individual Second Amendment
3 freedoms; and

4 **WHEREAS**, under the Clinton Administration, the United States Department of
5 Justice adopted an extremely narrow interpretation of Second Amendment freedoms that
6 denied the individual right of Americans to keep and bear arms; and

7 **WHEREAS** it has been the express policy of the Clinton Administration Justice
8 Department that the Second Amendment does not protect the right of individual citizens, but
9 rather applies only to governmentally recognized military organizations; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Clinton Administration's stance on gun ownership intentionally
11 ignored the original intent of the Constitution's framers and sought to dramatically limit the
12 Constitutionally affirmed Second Amendment freedoms of individual law-abiding Americans;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges President Bush to
14 renounce the Clinton Administration's anti-gun ownership policies; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests President Bush to
16 use his executive powers and influence to reorient the United States Department of Justice
17 towards a policy that fully recognizes the right of individual Americans to keep and bear arms
18 as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

19 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
20 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
21 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S.
22 Senate; the Honorable Thomas Daschle, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J.
23 Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Ashcroft,
24 Attorney General of the United States; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
25 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
26 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.