

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS LINCOLN, Hoffman, Ward, Austerman, Davis, Olson, Elton

Introduced: 3/12/01

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to condemning a recent hate crime against Alaska Natives; calling for public**
2 **and private agencies and citizens to speak out condemning racism and discrimination;**
3 **and joining in a request for a formal investigation by the United States Commission on**
4 **Civil Rights on racial discrimination and intolerance in Alaska.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** the recent hate crime involving three teenagers driving around downtown
7 Anchorage firing frozen paint balls at Alaska Natives was a brutal act that was racially
8 motivated; and

9 **WHEREAS** this incident is not an isolated occurrence, but a symptom of a much
10 greater problem reflected in statistics of homicides and rapes of Native women from rural
11 villages and other incidents of beatings of Alaska Natives on the city streets; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives has called upon the United States
13 Commission on Civil Rights, an independent, bipartisan agency established by Congress, to
14 conduct a formal investigation of this and similar incidents and to hold public hearings in
15 Alaska; and

1 **WHEREAS** the educational leaders of this state must be active in eliminating
2 discrimination in all its forms by providing a tolerant educational environment that is open
3 and accepting to all people; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature recognizes its responsibility to take a
5 leadership role in eliminating racial discrimination, and acknowledges its obligation to help
6 create a climate of tolerance in the state which will not condone any form of racism or
7 discrimination;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature condemns all hate crimes and
9 calls upon all public and private agencies and citizens of the state to speak out publicly,
10 forcefully, and clearly to condemn racism and discrimination in all its forms; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature joins in the Alaska
12 Federation of Natives' request to the United States Commission on Civil Rights to conduct a
13 formal investigation into this and other incidents of racism and discrimination in Alaska.

14 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John Ashcroft, Attorney
15 General of the United States; the Honorable Mary Frances Berry, Chair, United States
16 Commission on Civil Rights; the members of the state Board of Education and Early
17 Development; the chancellors of the University of Alaska; the superintendents of all Alaska
18 school systems; Julie Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives; and to the Honorable
19 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
20 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.