

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22(RLS)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/22/01

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to a diverse community; condemning a recent racially motivated attack; and**
2 **requesting the Municipality of Anchorage police department to continue their conclusive**
3 **investigation and requesting the criminal justice system to take rapid action to reach the**
4 **determination of this case.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** Anchorage is an incredibly diverse community with more than eighteen
7 identified ethnic groups comprising nearly 30 percent of its population; and

8 **WHEREAS** the growth rate of Anchorage minority groups exceeds the growth rate of
9 nonminorities; and

10 **WHEREAS** more than 20 percent of the Alaska Native and Native American
11 population of the state resides in Anchorage; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Native population and the bush communities make significant
13 contributions to Anchorage's economic viability; and

14 **WHEREAS** Anchorage has a responsibility to take a leadership role in eliminating
15 discrimination and an obligation to help create a climate of tolerance, to build bridges with the

1 various ethnic groups in the city; and

2 **WHEREAS** the recent incident involving targeting of Alaska Natives for harassment
3 and violent action by three youthful Anchorage residents armed with paintball guns is
4 deplorable and reflects badly on every citizen and business of Anchorage and the State of
5 Alaska; and

6 **WHEREAS** federal law 18 U.S.C. 245 makes it illegal to commit a crime when the
7 assailant is motivated by bias based on race, religion, national origin, or color and the
8 assailant intended to prevent the victim from exercising a "federally protected right"; and

9 **WHEREAS** Alaska law AS 12.55.155(c)(22) provides as an aggravating factor for
10 sentencing for a serious crime that "the defendant knowingly directed the conduct constituting
11 the offense at a victim because of that person's race, sex, color, creed, physical or mental
12 disability, ancestry, or national origin," and the finding of an aggravating factor allows the
13 court to increase a presumptive sentence for such an offense up to the maximum sentence for
14 that offense; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature condemns all hate crimes, racism, and
16 discrimination and calls on the public and the citizens of the state to likewise condemn hate
17 crimes, racism, and discrimination in any form;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature condemns the recent racially
19 motivated attack in Anchorage and finds the conduct of those perpetrating this act, or any
20 similar conduct, to be unacceptable; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Municipality
22 of Anchorage police department to continue its thorough and conclusive investigation of that
23 attack so as to allow the criminal justice system to take the actions necessary to reach a rapid
24 determination; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the perpetrators, and anyone else committing hate
26 crimes, in addition to any penalties meted out by the criminal justice system, should be
27 required to complete cultural and social sensitivity training and do regular, recurring
28 community service in an environment that brings the perpetrators into close contact with the
29 minority groups the perpetrators have targeted; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature is pledged to support fair
31 and equitable treatment for all who live in, do business in, or visit Alaska; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature joins with the Alaska
2 Federation of Natives in their request to the United States Commission on Civil Rights to
3 conduct a formal investigation into this incident and other incidents of racism and
4 discrimination in Alaska.

5 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John Ashcroft, Attorney
6 General of the United States; the Honorable Mary Frances Berry, Chair, United States
7 Commission on Civil Rights; the Honorable George Wuerch, Mayor of Anchorage; the
8 members of the Anchorage Assembly; Julia Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives;
9 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
10 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
11 Congress.