

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/10/01

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the President and the Congress to provide additional funding for special**
2 **education services.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the budget submitted to the United States Congress in 2001 by President
5 Bush includes increased funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 1975, the Congress passed P.L. 94-142, which is part of the
7 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and provided a national framework for providing
8 free, appropriate public education to all students regardless of the level or severity of
9 disability; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Congress, in its initial passage of the Individuals with Disabilities
11 Education Act, declared its intent to fund 40 percent of special education costs; and

12 **WHEREAS**, since the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the
13 states have been primarily responsible for providing funding for special education services;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS** special education services are being provided to all eligible children in
16 Alaska; and

1 **WHEREAS** many states, including Alaska, must provide substantial state funding to
2 fill the gaps left by the Congress's unfunded promise; and

3 **WHEREAS** the recent increases in federal funds for schools, including the increases
4 in special education funding, have come with substantial mandates and limitations on the use
5 of funds; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Congress is presently debating the most effective ways to improve
7 education within the states; and

8 **WHEREAS** the federal government is now estimating a surplus of
9 \$5,600,000,000,000 the next 10 years;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States Congress
11 should speedily adhere to the goal set out in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
12 and appropriate to the states significant, genuine assistance to meet the needs of students with
13 disabilities and to relieve schools of the necessity of cross-subsidizing special education
14 revenue with general education revenue.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
16 of the United States; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
17 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
18 delegation in Congress.