

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR ELLIS

Introduced: 2/13/04

Referred: State Affairs, Health, Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to support initiatives to fund before and after school**
2 **programs; and urging the Department of Education and Early Development to serve as**
3 **a clearinghouse for information and to create a statewide network related to those**
4 **programs.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** more than 120,000 school age children in the state have their custodial
7 parent or both parents working outside of the home; and

8 **WHEREAS** as many as 110,000 "latchkey children" are going home to an empty
9 house after school; and

10 **WHEREAS** before and after school programs can provide a safe, stimulating place
11 for children outside their homes; and

12 **WHEREAS** the benefits of before and after school programs are many, including
13 increased academic achievement, team-building skills, and physical fitness; and

14 **WHEREAS**, under Alaska law, high school seniors are now required to pass an exit
15 exam to receive their high school diplomas; and

1 **WHEREAS** trial test scores have shown significant segments of our student
2 population need more preparation to pass the exit exam; and

3 **WHEREAS** research has shown that participation in before and after school programs
4 can increase standardized test scores in subjects such as reading and mathematics; and

5 **WHEREAS** research has shown that the hours between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. are
6 when the most juvenile crime takes place; and

7 **WHEREAS** nine out of 10 voters continue to support after school programs,
8 according to a 2003 nationwide poll conducted by the polling firm, Lake, Snell, Perry and
9 Associates; and

10 **WHEREAS** research has shown that involvement in before and after school programs
11 decreases juvenile crime, drug use, and welfare dependency and increases high school
12 graduation rates when adequate before and after school programs are available;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Department of
14 Education and Early Development to direct existing staff to create a system in order to serve
15 as a clearinghouse for parents, educators, and community leaders statewide regarding
16 successful before and after school programs, grant opportunities, and changes in federal, state,
17 and local laws affecting before and after school programs; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Department of
19 Education and Early Development to conduct a statewide teleconference for parents,
20 educators, and community leaders to create a statewide network on before and after school
21 programs with a mission to share information on resources, funding opportunities, and new
22 government initiatives; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
24 Alaska congressional delegation to support initiatives at the federal level to fund before and
25 after school programs, including adequate funding, as \$2,000,000,000 in federal funding is
26 recommended under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, for the 21st Century Community
27 Learning Center program in fiscal year 2005.

28 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
29 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
30 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.