

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATORS ELLIS, Olson, French**

**Introduced: 2/16/04**

**Referred: State Affairs, Health, Education and Social Services**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to amend the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska has worked to improve public education by  
4 establishing benchmarks for student success; and

5 **WHEREAS** Alaska strives to provide students with the highest quality of education  
6 and has established standards for teacher preparation; and

7 **WHEREAS** the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 mandates that all schools  
8 must make "adequate yearly progress" toward achieving the goals laid out in the Act, and this  
9 mandate applies to subgroups, including economically disadvantaged students, students from  
10 diverse racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and students with limited English  
11 proficiency; and

12 **WHEREAS**, if a school identified under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary  
13 Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, fails to make  
14 adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years, the school district must give parents the  
15 option of transferring the student to another school that has not been identified as needing  
16 improvement; and

1           **WHEREAS**, if a Title I school fails to make adequate yearly progress for three  
2 consecutive years, students must be given the option of obtaining supplemental educational  
3 services; and

4           **WHEREAS**, if a Title I school fails to make adequate yearly progress for four  
5 consecutive years, then the school district must replace some school staff, implement a new  
6 curriculum, decrease the school's management authority, appoint an outside advisor, extend  
7 the school day or year, or restructure the internal organization of the school; and

8           **WHEREAS**, if a Title I school fails to make adequate yearly progress for five  
9 consecutive years, the school district must reopen the school as a charter school, replace all or  
10 most of the school's staff, or turn management of the school over to a private company; and

11           **WHEREAS**, under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, teachers can only teach  
12 subjects in which they are certified to be fully qualified; and

13           **WHEREAS** schools in some parts of Alaska have small staffs, requiring teachers to  
14 teach several subject areas; and

15           **WHEREAS** these and other requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001  
16 are unsuited to many Alaska schools; and

17           **WHEREAS** the federal government has failed to provide adequate funding to ensure  
18 that school districts in Alaska can meet the federal mandates; and

19           **WHEREAS** United States Secretary of Education Rod Paige has stated that he will  
20 not waive the requirements of the Act for Alaska in spite of the strong entreaties of Alaska's  
21 congressional delegation; and

22           **WHEREAS** the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 constitutes the greatest intrusion  
23 into local control over schools in the history of the Republic;

24           **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States Congress  
25 is urged to make changes to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to more realistically reflect  
26 conditions faced by Alaska's schools, including providing for waivers from requirements of  
27 the Act for states that have successfully increased student achievement through their own  
28 standards and accountability measures; and be it

29           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
30 Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to achieve the goals established by an amended law.

31           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President

1 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States  
2 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House  
3 of Representatives; the Honorable Rod Paige, United States Secretary of Education; and to the  
4 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable  
5 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.