

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES RAMRAS, Stoltze, Crawford

Introduced: 3/4/05

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Encouraging the establishment of a methamphetamine watch program.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** methamphetamine use and production is a growing threat to the State of
4 Alaska; and

5 **WHEREAS** the widespread availability of methamphetamine is illustrated by
6 increasing numbers of methamphetamine seizures, arrests, indictments, and sentences;
7 Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Kenai Peninsula, Southeast Alaska, and
8 Fairbanks have all experienced significant problems with methamphetamine related crimes
9 and methamphetamine laboratories ("meth labs"); and

10 **WHEREAS** unlike many other synthetic drugs, methamphetamine is produced
11 inexpensively in clandestine laboratories using ordinary household chemicals; meth labs can
12 be portable and are easily dismantled, stored, or moved; and

13 **WHEREAS** meth labs have been found in many different types of locations
14 throughout Alaska, including homes, apartments, hotel rooms, rented storage spaces, and
15 vehicles; and

16 **WHEREAS** the process of making methamphetamine is highly dangerous, and can

1 cause fires, explosions, and the release of toxic by-products into the environment; the
2 production of one pound of methamphetamine releases poisonous gas into the atmosphere and
3 creates five to seven pounds of toxic waste; and

4 **WHEREAS** according to the federal office of national drug control policy, last year
5 more than 3,000 children were rescued during seizures of more than 15,000 meth labs
6 nationwide; and

7 **WHEREAS** "mom-and-pop" meth labs, where people prepare the drug from
8 ingredients in common household items, are dangerous to law enforcement and emergency
9 response personnel, and cost the state millions in court costs, clean-up expenses, and foster
10 care costs; and

11 **WHEREAS** Kansas has developed a voluntary public/private partnership program
12 called "Meth Watch" to combat the methamphetamine problem, and similar programs have
13 been implemented in 11 states; and

14 **WHEREAS** the purposes of the meth watch program are to engage retailers, law
15 enforcement officials, state and local agencies, schools, and other key partners in reducing the
16 diversion of precursor products for the illicit manufacturing of methamphetamine, to increase
17 awareness about the dangers of methamphetamine, to conduct a program of
18 methamphetamine abuse awareness in public schools, and to assist communities in educating
19 their citizens about the problems with methamphetamine abuse and meth labs;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Department of Health
21 and Social Services to take the lead in establishing a meth watch program in Alaska, to apply
22 for available grants from the federal government, and to request appropriation of matching
23 funds by the Alaska State Legislature if necessary, to encourage other eligible entities to apply
24 for funding from both government and private sources, to assist community organizations in
25 applying for funding and implementing local meth watch programs, and to help educate
26 Alaskans about methamphetamine abuse and the presence of meth labs in their communities.