

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES HARRIS, Stoltze, Chenault, Coghill, Foster, Johnson, Lynn, Neuman, Kawasaki, Keller, Ramras, Millett, Wilson, Kelly, Gatto

Introduced: 2/11/09

Referred: Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to reject H.R. 45, the Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing**
2 **and Record of Sale Act of 2009.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution enunciates a
5 citizen's right to keep and bear arms, stating that that right shall not be infringed; and

6 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45 has been introduced in the United States Congress to require
7 licensure of firearm owners and extensive recordkeeping of transactions that result in the
8 transfer of certain firearms, including handguns and semiautomatic rifles; and

9 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45, referred to as the Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of
10 Sale Act of 2009, would make it a federal felony to possess a firearm without a license; and

11 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45 would also make it a federal felony to transfer a firearm to
12 another person who is not licensed; and

13 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45 directs the Attorney General of the United States to establish and
14 maintain a federal system documenting the sale and transfer of firearms; and

15 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45 would make it a federal felony to fail to report the loss or theft of
16 a firearm to the attorney general within 72 hours; and

1 **WHEREAS**, under H.R. 45, a firearm owner could be charged with a federal felony
2 based on the actions of a juvenile who might gain access to the firearm; and

3 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45 directs the attorney general to establish and maintain a firearm
4 injury information clearinghouse, to conduct studies of firearm-related deaths and injuries,
5 and to collect and maintain production and sales data from licensed firearm manufactures; and

6 **WHEREAS** the provisions of H.R. 45 cumulatively constitute a gun registration
7 system and an assault on the Second Amendment rights of United States citizens; and

8 **WHEREAS** the private ownership of firearms has always been a key component of
9 our national defense and constitutes a constructive notice to our enemies that Americans are a
10 free people and a people free to defend themselves; and

11 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45 would diminish this traditional component of our national
12 defense; and

13 **WHEREAS** there are other methods of addressing the problem of gun violence and
14 gun-related deaths, such as increased education on the proper handling and use of firearms,
15 that would be more effective and less intrusive into the private lives of American citizens and
16 would not diminish a constitutionally guaranteed right;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the Blair Holt's
18 Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2009, urges the United States Congress to reject
19 H.R. 45, and further urges the members of the Alaska Congressional delegation to oppose and
20 defeat H.R. 45; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that members of the Alaska Congressional delegation are
22 urged to support and expand federal funding of firearm education programs.

23 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-
24 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid,
25 Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the
26 U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
27 Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and the
28 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the
29 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.