

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

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

BY REPRESENTATIVES KERTTULA, Fairclough, Holmes, Tuck, Petersen, Johnson, Dahlstrom

Introduced: 2/23/10
 Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass the Crime Victims Fund Preservation Act.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601 - 10608) established
 4 the Crime Victims Fund, which is one the main sources of money and support for crime
 5 victims and crime victims' services in the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto
 6 Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and territories of the United States; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Crime Victims Fund provides critical funding for formula grants to
 8 states for victim compensation and victim assistance and for federal discretionary grants, in
 9 addition to earmarks for federal victim assistance in the United States Attorneys' Offices and
 10 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for the Victim Notification System and the Children's
 11 Justice Act grant programs; and

12 **WHEREAS** state compensation programs pay directly for medical care, counseling,
 13 and lost wages for victims of domestic violence, child abuse, and rape, and for funerals for
 14 victims of homicide; and

15 **WHEREAS** state victim assistance programs provide critical, often life-saving
 16 services, including crisis intervention and emergency shelter, and counseling, child care, and

1 emergency transportation services; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Office for Victims of Crime awards discretionary grants for
3 demonstration projects, training, and technical assistance to expand and improve the delivery
4 of services to crime victims and to support services to victims of federal offenses; and

5 **WHEREAS** funds placed in the Crime Victims Fund are derived primarily from
6 criminal fines and other penalties paid by offenders of federal crimes, and the fund does not
7 rely on tax revenue; and

8 **WHEREAS** states may use compensation grants and victim assistance grants over a
9 four-year period, thus enabling them to plan and manage the distribution of funds over time;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, in 2000, the United States Congress began capping annual obligations
12 from the Crime Victims Fund, which has limited the amount of funding that would otherwise
13 have been available to support victims' services; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in the past 11 years, nearly \$9,000,000,000 has been deposited into the
15 Crime Victims Fund while only \$6,000,000,000 has been obligated, resulting in an
16 accumulated balance of nearly \$3,000,000,000 in the fund as of the beginning of 2010; and

17 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress has repeatedly stated that the purpose of the
18 cap is to ensure that a stable level of funding will remain available for crime victims' services
19 in future years; and

20 **WHEREAS** crime victims' services in all states and jurisdictions are facing severe
21 budgetary shortfalls because of cutbacks in other victim assistance programs and decreases in
22 private donations, while the need for services continues to increase; and

23 **WHEREAS** S. 1340 and H.R. 3402, the Crime Victims Fund Preservation Act of
24 2009, introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Patrick Leahy and introduced in the
25 United States House of Representatives by Representative Ted Poe, would establish
26 increasing minimum caps on annual Crime Victims Fund obligations through the year 2014,
27 significantly increasing the amount in the fund available for state victim assistance grants and
28 for discretionary grants awarded by the Office for the Victims of Crime, without jeopardizing
29 the long-term sustainability of the fund;

30 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature fully supports the purposes of
31 S. 1340 and H.R. 3402, the Crime Victims Fund Preservation Act, and urges the United States

1 Congress to enact the Crime Victims Fund Preservation Act.

2 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-
3 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid,
4 Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the
5 U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
6 Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
7 Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
8 Honorable Patrick Leahy, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Ted Poe, U.S. Representative; and the
9 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the
10 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.