

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATOR MCGUIRE**

**Introduced: 2/21/12**

**Referred: State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to take action to end the People's Republic of China's**  
2 **repression of human rights in Tibet, to recognize Tibetan political autonomy, and to**  
3 **urge the government of the People's Republic of China to negotiate in good faith with**  
4 **representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** the people of Tibet lived in peace and harmony for centuries; and

7 **WHEREAS** the people of Tibet harbored no ill will toward anyone and had no desire  
8 to extend their mountainous territory beyond its historic boundaries; and

9 **WHEREAS**, with absolutely no provocation from the Tibetan people, on March 10,  
10 1959, the army of the People's Republic of China illegally invaded that peaceful Himalayan  
11 Mountain kingdom; and

12 **WHEREAS** it has been reported that more than 1,000,000 Tibetans have perished as a  
13 direct result of the Chinese occupation, that the Tibetan people have been deprived of any  
14 right of self-determination, and that it is now nearly impossible for them to continue their  
15 distinctive cultural practices and religious observances; and

1           **WHEREAS**, despite the assertions of the government of the People's Republic of  
2 China, the Tibetan people pose no threat in any manner to the security of that government;  
3 and

4           **WHEREAS** Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states in no  
5 uncertain terms that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading  
6 treatment or punishment"; and

7           **WHEREAS** the cruelty and repression that the People's Republic of China has  
8 inflicted on the Tibetan people during a half-century of occupation is a serious violation of  
9 human rights; and

10          **WHEREAS** the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General  
11 Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948, states that contempt for human rights  
12 deserves condemnation on the part of the international community when it results in  
13 barbarous acts that outrage mankind; and

14          **WHEREAS**, in March 2008, large numbers of Tibetans protested against their  
15 occupiers from the People's Republic of China; hundreds of Tibetans were killed, and many  
16 remain missing or imprisoned; and

17          **WHEREAS** March 10, 2009, marked the 50th anniversary of the People's Republic of  
18 China's invasion of Tibet, and protests around the world known as "Tibet Solidarity Walks"  
19 sent a message of outrage to the government of the People's Republic of China, demanding  
20 that Tibetans be treated with respect and human dignity; and

21          **WHEREAS** ending the cruelty, repression, and other unfair treatment of the Tibetan  
22 people by the government of the People's Republic of China should be treated as a matter of  
23 high priority by the United States Congress;

24          **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature condemns the continuing  
25 repression of the Tibetan people and expresses its solidarity with the individuals who  
26 participated in the protests throughout Tibet in March 2008; and be it

27          **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
28 Congress to

29                   (1) take action to end the People's Republic of China's repression of human  
30 rights in Tibet;

31                   (2) recognize the right of the Tibetan people to freedom and genuine political

1 autonomy; and

2 (3) urge the government of the People's Republic of China to negotiate in  
3 good faith with representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet to find meaningful  
4 autonomy for the Tibetan people.

5 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
6 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and  
7 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, Chair of the U.S. Senate  
8 Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Howard L. Berman, Chair of the U.S. House  
9 Committee on Foreign Affairs; the Representative for Americas of His Holiness the Dalai  
10 Lama at the Office of Tibet in New York, New York; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and  
11 the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
12 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.