

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES DRUMMOND, Lynn, Tuck, Josephson

Introduced: 2/3/14

Referred: Education, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming February to be Public Education Month.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the founding fathers of the United States of America valued public
4 education and considered it essential to the survival of the democratic form of government;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS** high quality public education is one of the cornerstones of the
7 Constitution of the State of Alaska and a fundamental civil right; and

8 **WHEREAS** public schools serve every child in a community regardless of race,
9 religion, or ability and provide the opportunity for students to learn from and understand
10 people with diverse backgrounds and cultures; and

11 **WHEREAS** 90 percent of all American children attend public schools, and
12 Americans must focus national attention on making public schools as good as they can be;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, every year, millions of American children across the country graduate
15 from public schools, having completed the toughest curricula in our nation's history; and

16 **WHEREAS** public education provides a tuition free system in which parents can

1 obtain detailed information about their children's schools, support their children, and be
2 involved in school activities; and

3 **WHEREAS** public education safeguards the quality of education offered to children
4 throughout the country and provides a safe and effective learning environment; and

5 **WHEREAS** education in America involves a wide range of academic, social, and
6 individual goals, and the principal responsibility for providing that education should be in the
7 public sector; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in the public schools, the public interest in education is more
9 deliberately and proactively represented and is more open to public scrutiny than in any other
10 schools;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims February to be Public
12 Education Month; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the state
14 Board of Education and Early Development promote, publicize, and increase awareness of the
15 important role public education plays in the state's history.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
17 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
18 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of
19 Alaska; the Honorable Mike Hanley, Commissioner, Department of Education and Early
20 Development; and the members of the state Board of Education and Early Development.