

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES NELSON, McCabe, Shaw, McCarty, Fields, Prax, Merrick, Thompson, Gillham, Snyder, Story, Rauscher, Johnson, Foster, Tuck, Hopkins, Schrage, Josephson, Tarr, Tilton

Introduced: 2/16/22

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Encouraging the United States Congress to establish hiring goals for apprentices and**
2 **veteran apprentices.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** Americans have a special obligation to those who served in the armed
5 forces of the United States and risked their lives to defend our nation's freedom and honor;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS** thousands of men and women have served in the armed forces of the
8 United States to protect and preserve the freedom the citizens of the United States enjoy; and

9 **WHEREAS** veterans have graduated from the world's largest system of specialized
10 professional and technical training schools, operated by the United States Department of
11 Defense; and

12 **WHEREAS** veterans of active duty military service are one of the nation's most
13 important sources of well-educated, highly trained, and strongly motivated employees; and

14 **WHEREAS** veterans trained by the armed forces of the United States offer employers
15 a more mature and responsible employee compared to employees with no military
16 experience; and

1 **WHEREAS** veterans returning home face challenges, including in education and
2 employment, that may prevent them from successfully transitioning from military to civilian
3 life; and

4 **WHEREAS** unemployment rates for both male and female veterans increased in 2020
5 during the COVID-19 pandemic; the unemployment rate for male veterans was 6.5 percent,
6 and the unemployment rate for female veterans was 6.7 percent; and

7 **WHEREAS** among the 581,000 unemployed veterans in 2020, 54 percent were ages
8 25 to 54, 41 percent were age 55 and over, and 5 percent were ages 18 to 24; and

9 **WHEREAS** the state has the highest rate of veterans in the nation, with nearly 14
10 percent of adult Alaskans having served in the military; and

11 **WHEREAS** the 2022 draft federal appropriations report for the United States
12 Department of Defense indicates that \$10,900,000,000 will be spent on military construction
13 that will require thousands of workers; and

14 **WHEREAS** military construction jobs offer a prime opportunity for veterans,
15 including veterans in apprenticeship and postsecondary programs, to further their careers; and

16 **WHEREAS** military service is one of the most demanding professions in the world,
17 and military training produces highly motivated individuals who set high goals for
18 themselves;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully encourages the
20 United States Congress to introduce and pass legislation requiring each offeror for a domestic
21 United States Department of Defense construction project to establish a goal that not less than
22 10 percent of the total workforce employed in the performance of the project are participants
23 in qualified apprenticeship or postsecondary programs; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully encourages
25 the United States Congress to introduce and pass legislation requiring each contractor and
26 subcontractor for a domestic United States Department of Defense construction project that
27 employs apprentices or postsecondary students in a particular classification to ensure that not
28 less than 10 percent of the apprentices or postsecondary students are veterans of the armed
29 forces of the United States.

30 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
31 of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States

1 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of
2 Representatives; the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of
3 Representatives; the Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
4 Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Denis
5 McDonough, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and
6 the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
7 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the
8 117th United States Congress.