

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Gray-Jackson, Dunbar, Tobin, Kawasaki, Yundt, Claman

Introduced: 5/9/25

Referred: State Affairs

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to grant American Samoans the ability to serve as**  
2 **commissioned officers in the uniformed services of the United States and the right to**  
3 **vote in federal elections.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

5 **WHEREAS** American Samoa has been an unincorporated territory of the United  
6 States since 1900; and

7 **WHEREAS** American Samoa is the only inhabited territory of the United States  
8 whose residents are considered nationals of the United States but are not citizens; and

9 **WHEREAS** United States citizenship is granted at birth to residents of all other  
10 inhabited territories of the United States including Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana  
11 Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands; and

12 **WHEREAS**, under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as nationals of the United  
13 States, American Samoans owe permanent allegiance to the United States; and

14 **WHEREAS** American Samoans can obtain a United States passport as well as live  
15 and work in any location in the United States; and

1           **WHEREAS** the 2020 Census showed that the population of American Samoa was  
2 49,710 and in 2023 the United States Census Bureau estimated that there were 268,539 people  
3 of Samoan descent living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia; and

4           **WHEREAS** American Samoans have contributed greatly to the civic, cultural,  
5 economic, and spiritual life of the United States and this state; and

6           **WHEREAS** American Samoans have a long history of patriotism and service to the  
7 United States, and American Samoa has the highest military enlistment rate of any state or  
8 territory; and

9           **WHEREAS** American Samoan men who reside in the 50 states or the District of  
10 Columbia must register with the Selective Service System and can be drafted into military  
11 service; and

12           **WHEREAS**, despite the long tradition of military service by American Samoans,  
13 federal law prohibits noncitizen nationals of the United States from serving as commissioned  
14 officers in the uniformed services of the United States; and

15           **WHEREAS** federal law prohibits American Samoans who are nationals but not  
16 citizens of the United States from voting in elections for President, Vice President, United  
17 States Senate, and United States House of Representatives; and

18           **WHEREAS** the right to vote and participate in the democratic process is one of the  
19 most cherished principles on which the nation's society is built; and

20           **WHEREAS**, by being denied the right to vote in the states where American Samoans  
21 reside, American Samoans are being subjected to taxation without representation;

22           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Senate urges the United States Congress to pass  
23 legislation allowing nationals of the United States to serve as commissioned officers in the  
24 uniformed services of the United States and to vote in federal elections in the state in which  
25 they reside.

26           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President  
27 of the United States; the Honorable JD Vance, Vice President of the United States and  
28 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of  
29 Representatives; the Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of  
30 Representatives; the Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the  
31 Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa

- 1 Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas
- 2 Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other
- 3 members of the 119th United States Congress.