

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATORS GREIMANN AND WALSH

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 47

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the abolition of the Bureau
6 of Indian Affairs.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA IN
8 SECOND LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION ASSEMBLED:

9 WHEREAS, it is a tenet of American constitutional government
10 that no man is to be treated by his government better or worse
11 than any other man, but that the government has the positive duty
12 to treat all men equally; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States foreign policy is and for many
14 years has been to encourage as strongly as possible the nations
15 with which it deals to provide their citizens with equal treat-
16 ment, at least insofar as governmental action is concerned; and

17 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has decided that
18 separate facilities provided by the government -- even though
19 those facilities are equal to or superior in quality to other
20 facilities -- constitute a denial of equal protection of the laws
21 under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the federal government, through the Department of
24 Justice and the federal regulatory agencies, through executive
25 orders and executive study committees, through court decisions
26 and through legislation and legislative investigation, is enforc-
27 ing constitutional mandates against segregation in federal and
28 state governmental policies; and

29 WHEREAS, both major national political parties have

SJR #47

-1-

1 advocated an end to federal and state governmental segregation;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is actively engaged
4 in a policy of segregation in the states in which it operates, as
5 is shown by the separate, exclusive schools, hospitals and
6 health and welfare programs it operates; and

7 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs seems intent on per-
8 petuating rather than ending its segregation policy, as is shown
9 by its budgeting \$350,000 to build a segregated high school with
10 boarding facilities in Fairbanks, and its budgeting to build
11 other segregated facilities throughout the state; and

12 WHEREAS, the Legislature is aware of and commends the neces-
13 sary humanitarian purpose of the Bureau of Indian Affairs when
14 it builds public housing and supplies needed education and health
15 services, objecting only to its segregation policy;

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
17 Second Legislature, Second Session assembled that the segregatio
18 policy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs be condemned; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the consensus of the Legislature
20 of the State of Alaska that the Bureau of Indian Affairs should,
21 over the next 15 years, expend all its efforts toward integrating
22 Native populations into their neighboring communities, so that,
23 at the end of that period, the Bureau of Indian Affairs may be
24 abolished without detriment to any person; and be it

25 FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to
26 the Honorable John F. Kennedy, President of the United States;
27 the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, Vice-President of the United
28 States; the Honorable John W. McCormack, Speaker of the House of
29 Representatives; the Alaska Delegation to Congress; the Honorable

SJR #47

1 Robert F. Kennedy, Attorney General of the United States; the
2 Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; and the
3 Honorable Philleo Nash, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29