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BY MESSRS. JOSEPHSON, KERTTULA,  
LEFEVRE, PLOTNICK, DITMAN AND  
GRAVEL

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 46

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to federal legislation  
6 on the voting rights of all  
7 citizens.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 WHEREAS the President of the United States has urged the  
10 enactment by Congress of effective legislation prohibiting the  
11 denial of the right to vote in state, federal or local elections,  
12 by reason of race, religion, color, creed, or other factor; and

13 WHEREAS Alaska has been in the forefront of states seeking  
14 to extend the franchise to all citizens, for example, by requiring  
15 only that the voter be able to read or speak the English language  
16 and by extending the franchise to citizens of the age of 19 years  
17 or over; and

18 WHEREAS Governor William A. Egan has made the denial of vot-  
19 ing rights in Alabama, and the failure of certain state officials  
20 there to prevent violence, a moral question which reaches the  
21 conscience of millions of Americans; and

22 WHEREAS the denial of the franchise to Negroes is contrary to  
23 the best interests of the nation at home and abroad; and

24 WHEREAS this denial of franchise gives improper voting weight  
25 in Congress to those elected from districts apportioned on the  
26 basis of full population but in which large segments of the popu-  
27 lation are denied the right to register and vote because of their  
28 race; and

29 WHEREAS prevailing conditions in certain areas of the South

1 hamper commerce, tourism, and other contact with that area by  
2 Americans living in the East, North and West; and

3 WHEREAS the adoption of President Johnson's legislative pro-  
4 gram dealing with voting rights will ease the present crisis that  
5 exists in certain areas of the nation;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature urges prompt  
7 approval of effective measures creating federal limitations upon  
8 literacy tests and other devices used to deny certain Americans  
9 their franchise in state, federal and local elections, and further  
10 urges provision in federal law for the registration of voters by  
11 federal officials in situations where state officials are unwill-  
12 ing to perform this function; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to  
14 the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States;  
15 the Honorable Hubert B. Humphrey, Vice President of the United  
16 States and President of the Senate; the Honorable John W.  
17 McCormack, Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable  
18 Carl Hayden, President pro tempore of the Senate; the Honorable  
19 Nicholas Katzenbach, Attorney General of the United States; and  
20 the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening,  
21 U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, U. S. Repre-  
22 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.