

1 IN THE SENATE

BY PETER

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 86

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to improved federal
6 services for Veterans in Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS the services and the effectiveness of the U. S.
9 Veterans Administration Regional Office at Juneau, Alaska, have
10 continued to deteriorate with five more positions being eliminated
11 from this office in less than a year; and

12 WHEREAS there is at present no chief attorney to supervise
13 the VA guardianship program, no loan guaranty or direct loan ad-
14 ministration; no death claims section; and no social service
15 program in the Juneau VA Regional Office; and

16 WHEREAS this situation has continued to worsen for several
17 years with the result that fewer and fewer veterans and their
18 lawful beneficiaries are, and will be able, to obtain from the
19 Veterans Administration the rights, benefits and privileges to
20 which they are legally entitled; and

21 WHEREAS the combination of continuing policies to reduce
22 contact office personnel, to withhold many normal Regional Office
23 functions and responsibilities in Alaska, and to eliminate eventu-
24 ally the Alaska Regional Office is a disservice to the best inter-
25 ests of the public and those Alaskans who have served their nation
26 well in time of war and other public emergency; and

27 WHEREAS immediate action should be taken to meet the problems
28 that exist in communicating information about VA services to
29 Alaskans and to build a program of providing more information to

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1 the public;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Administrator of Veterans Affairs is
3 urged to take immediate steps to serve better the veterans and
4 their beneficiaries in Alaska by restoring all normal functions
5 and responsibilities of a regional Veterans Administration office
6 at Juneau, Alaska; to expand the number of Contact Office personnel
7 in Alaska to serve most major population centers and to provide
8 sufficient roving personnel to visit regularly most of the more
9 isolated population centers; and to conduct an intensive program
10 of public information in order to inform those eligible persons
11 of the benefits to which they are entitled from the Veterans Ad-
12 ministration.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable
14 Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States; the Honorable
15 W. J. Driver, Administrator, Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable
16 John C. Denny, Manager, Veterans' Administration Office, Juneau;
17 and to the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest
18 Gruening, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, U. S.
19 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.