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BY BEIRNE, BANFIELD, BOARDMAN, BRADNER,  
CHANCE, CORNELIUS, CROFT, ELIASON, GUESS,  
HENSLEY, HOHMAN, JACKSON, KERTTULA,  
MCVEIGH, MILLER, PAUKAN, PERATROVICH,  
SACKETT AND SWEET

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to early childhood education.

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

7 WHEREAS last year President Nixon called for "a national commitment to  
8 provide all American children an opportunity for healthful and stimulating  
9 development during the first five years of life" and therefore has made early  
10 childhood education a national priority; and

11 WHEREAS it is now found that the intelligence is not fixed but can be  
12 significantly improved through providing young children with the proper  
13 health care and stimulating environments; and

14 WHEREAS physical, mental, and social neglect in early years is known to  
15 cause irreversible damages that are compounded as a person matures; and

16 WHEREAS well-run preschool programs are found to be highly beneficial  
17 to children; and

18 WHEREAS there are mothers who are financially unable to adequately pro-  
19 vide for their preschool children as seen by the large numbers on the Aid  
20 to Family of Dependent Children's rolls; and

21 WHEREAS there are many children of working mothers in Alaska who are too  
22 young to attend the elementary schools and whose parents cannot afford or  
23 are unable to place them in good child-care centers; and

24 WHEREAS Alaskans are demonstrating a need for early childhood programs  
25 as indicated by the current request from 84 villages which have requested  
26 OEO-funded Head Start programs and by the 25 which have initiated their own  
27 nonfunded Head Start programs; and

28 WHEREAS these programs are not all of the quality our Alaskan children  
29 require to meet their needs, and consultation is needed to help upgrade

1 these programs; and

2 WHEREAS there is little or no continuity or coordination with the regu-  
3 lar public school system and there is a demonstrated need for planning future  
4 programs and coordinating development of centers and programs to meet these  
5 needs; and

6 WHEREAS the consultant currently attempting to work with these areas  
7 has the responsibility for elementary consultation so cannot give the neces-  
8 sary time and priority to the field of early childhood education;

9 BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct  
10 the Commissioner of Education to make provisions for a full-time consulting  
11 specialist in early childhood education; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education take leadership re-  
13 sponsibility for coordinating the efforts of all agencies responsible for  
14 those areas involved in pre-elementary education.

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