

INTRODUCED: 4/2/69  
REFERRED: Health, Welfare  
and Education

BY THE HEALTH, WELFARE  
& EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 50

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Urging the Congress of the United  
6 States to adopt a federal system of  
7 public welfare and assistance.

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

9 WHEREAS great disparities exist between the public welfare programs  
10 currently in effect in the several states, resulting in serious inequities  
11 to the beneficiaries of the programs as well as in disproportionate burdens  
12 in the financing of the programs; and

13 WHEREAS a growing concern is being voiced by authorities and public  
14 officials throughout the nation regarding public welfare programs particu-  
15 larly with respect to their effectiveness in achieving the desired objectives  
16 of providing for the basic needs of those who, for various reasons, are  
17 unable to provide for themselves and, at the same time, in assisting as many  
18 as possible of those aided to assume or to return to productive lives; and

19 WHEREAS the Honorable Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York  
20 recently proposed as a solution to the problem of disparities and inequities  
21 among various state welfare programs that the United States government  
22 assume the entirety of the financial obligations for public welfare through-  
23 out the nation; and

24 WHEREAS the Honorable Dr. Wilbur J. Cohen, former Secretary of the  
25 United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare, made more detailed  
26 but similar recommendations at the time of his retirement from office; and

27 WHEREAS Dr. Cohen stated that, "An overhauled system would greatly help  
28 the states by making it possible to release money to be spent on the improve-  
29 ment of education and other essential state services..." and that a "federally

1 financed program of public assistance could provide that existing state  
2 agencies would administer the national program with the federal government  
3 paying all costs of administration so as to assure that the program would  
4 be administered in all parts of the country on a decentralized and effective  
5 and humane manner."; and

6 WHEREAS the program of public welfare is one of genuine national concern  
7 affecting alike the people and governments in each of the several states and  
8 should, therefore, be approached from a national perspective, especially in  
9 view of the serious ramifications of the failure to deal quickly and effec-  
10 tively with proliferating disparities, inequities and injustices; and

11 WHEREAS disparate welfare requirements among the states as to residency  
12 and the establishment of need, broad differences from state to state as to  
13 the financial resources undergirding the various welfare programs, the dis-  
14 cretionary element involved in the determination of the allocation of  
15 resources to the increasing services demanded of state governments, and the  
16 failure of the states to effectively enforce the provisions of their welfare  
17 laws relating to the prosecution of those who desert and neglect their  
18 children, forces the conclusion, in the interests of economy, efficiency,  
19 equity and justice, that the time has arrived for a major overhaul of the  
20 nation's welfare programs into one uniform national system;

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska that the United  
22 States Congress is respectfully urged to adopt a system of federal financing  
23 of the money payment grant to public assistance recipients, so as to promote  
24 uniformity among public welfare programs throughout the United States, and  
25 to leave to the states the responsibility for administering the uniform  
26 national program.

27 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John W.  
28 McCormack, Speaker of the House; the Honorable Richard B. Russell, President  
29 Pro Tempore of the Senate; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable

1 Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S.  
2 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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