

BY JOSEPHSON, BEGICH, BLODGETT,
BRADSHAW, CHRISTIANSEN, MERDES,
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1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the President's veto of
6 the Department of Health, Education
7 and Welfare budget.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

9 WHEREAS every knowledgeable observer of the Alaska scene recognizes
10 that Alaska has many unmet needs in the fields of health, education and
11 welfare; and

12 WHEREAS Alaska has been classified as a "depressed area" for certain
13 purposes by the federal government, because of chronic problems of poverty
14 and unemployment; and

15 WHEREAS the Congress of the United States has appropriated \$49,722,817
16 in the appropriation legislation for the Department of Health, Education
17 and Welfare, all of which sum was specifically earmarked for Alaska pro-
18 grams; and

19 WHEREAS among the vital programs that would be funded under the said
20 legislation are P.L. 874 (\$15,917,000) and P. L. 815 (\$1,293,000), Elemen-
21 tary and Secondary education research, higher education programs (including
22 \$546,000 for Alaska's financially hard-pressed community college system),
23 student aid and loan programs and special programs for the educationally
24 disadvantaged; and

25 WHEREAS the legislation adopted by Congress would also provide funds
26 for Alaskans eligible for old age assistance (\$1,004,000), aid to the
27 blind (\$58,000), and aid to the permanently and totally disabled (\$393,000);
28 and

29 WHEREAS involved in the appropriations measure is a total of

1 \$22,717,000 in educational grants alone for the State of Alaska, including
2 vocational education programs, adult basic education, programs for the handi-
3 capped, and library funds; and

4 WHEREAS the measure adopted by Congress for appropriations for the
5 Department of Health, Education and Welfare would further provide funds
6 with which serious problems of mental retardation, crippled children, child
7 welfare, juvenile delinquency, narcotics addiction and alcoholism could be
8 combated; and

9 WHEREAS the problem of tuberculosis, especially in the rural areas,
10 remains one of the key health problems of the State of Alaska, and the
11 legislation appropriates \$453,000 for research in tuberculosis; and

12 WHEREAS Alaska has urgent need for more hospital beds, and the approp-
13 riation measure would provide \$750,000 of federal funds for hospital con-
14 struction in Alaska; and

15 WHEREAS Governor Keith H. Miller has pointed out that Alaska is unique-
16 ly situated as a place at which research into environmental problems could
17 be conducted with federal funds, and the appropriations measure would pro-
18 vide \$1,572,000 of federal money in Alaska for environmental research and
19 control; and

20 WHEREAS the problems of the aged in Alaska have been widely discussed,
21 and the legislation approved by Congress would provide \$9,000,000 to the
22 Social Security Administration for the payment in Alaska of Old Age and
23 Survivors' Benefits and Insurance payments, and further sums for disability
24 insurance and health insurance (Medicare), all these programs being of
25 major consequence to Alaska's senior citizens; and

26 WHEREAS, the President of the United States, Richard M.
27 Nixon, did veto the appropriations for the Department of Health, Education
28 and Welfare on Monday evening, January 26, 1970, and the Congress of the
29 United States will pass shortly upon the veto message of the President;

1 BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Alaska delegation in Congress
2 are respectfully urged by the Alaska State Senate to cast their votes to
3 override the veto of the President of the United States, and to point out
4 to their colleagues in the Senate and the House the importance of the
5 Congressionally-approved legislation to the people of Alaska.

6 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
7 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable George H. Mahon,
8 Chairman of the U. S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee;
9 the Honorable Richard B. Russell, Chairman of the U. S. Senate Appropria-
10 tions Committee; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike
11 Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Repre-
12 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.