

Introduced: 2/21/75  
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY MELAND, ZIEGLER AND MILLER

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13 am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the Closure of the Wrangell

6 Institute.

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

8 WHEREAS the Bureau of Indian Affairs has indicated that the Wrangell  
9 Institute is to be closed as of July 1, 1975; and

10 WHEREAS the institute is more than a school -- it is a special education  
11 institute for students ranging in age from eleven to eighteen and in school  
12 grades from zero to seven; and

13 WHEREAS the position of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is that there are  
14 new schools being built in the villages and that is a laudable program;  
15 however, the students at the Wrangell Institute need individual attention  
16 not available in their home village environment and ordinary schools cannot  
17 offer the specialized counseling, individualized education, or attention  
18 they receive at the institute; and

19 WHEREAS the institute is the only elementary boarding school in the  
20 State of Alaska; and

21 WHEREAS although the lack of money is one reason given for this impending  
22 closure, school officials estimate they can operate with one major repair  
23 being made, that to the boiler system, for approximately \$30,000; and

24 WHEREAS these deprived children deserve the optimum chance to become  
25 useful citizens, and experience the greatest amount of success possible in  
26 order to achieve a better self-image;

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Bureau of  
28 Indian Affairs is urgently requested to terminate all plans to close this  
29 unique educational facility and to allocate the funds necessary for the

1 essential repairs needed, especially to the school's boiler system.

2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Rogers C. B. Morton, Secre-  
3 tary, Department of the Interior; the Honorable Morris Thompson, Commissioner,  
4 Bureau of Indian Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable  
5 Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators; and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representa-  
6 tive; members of Alaska's delegation in Congress.