

Introduced: 1/18/78
Referred: Health, Education
and Social Services

BY BUCHHOLDT, SCHAEFFER AND
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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 47

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to bilingualism in federal pro-
6 ceedings.

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

8 WHEREAS during hearings in Barrow in September 1977, sponsored by the
9 U. S. Department of Commerce on the whaling ban, the Inupiaq Eskimos were
10 initially discouraged from testifying in their own language; and

11 WHEREAS whaling activities are the cornerstone of village life politi-
12 cally, socially, economically, and culturally; and

13 WHEREAS the specifics of these activities have been transmitted verbally
14 between generations over thousands of years and are best understood within
15 the context of the Inupiaq language; and

16 WHEREAS the fundamental concept of due process provides that a person be
17 allowed to speak in his self defense before being deprived of an essential
18 means of obtaining a livelihood and in the face of profound cultural change;

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the President is
20 respectfully requested to direct federal agencies to make provisions for
21 persons to testify in their Native languages during federal proceedings which
22 affect Native people.

23 A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,
24 President of the United States; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
25 Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S.
26 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.