

Introduced: 1/17/78
Referred: Health Education
and Social Services

1 IN THE SENATE

BY CROFT

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the Head Start program.

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

7 WHEREAS the Head Start program provides critically needed services, such
8 as medical examinations, dental examinations, and a pre-school enrichment
9 program to children throughout Alaska; and

10 WHEREAS the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare has the power to
11 include children who would benefit from the program but whose families do not
12 meet the low-income criteria; and

13 WHEREAS the Secretary has established a 10 per cent limitation on the
14 number of these children who may enroll in any Head Start classroom; and

15 WHEREAS Alaska is the biggest state in the nation, with the highest cost
16 of living (except for Hawaii) and the lowest population density, which
17 creates a poverty of access unique to the state; and

18 WHEREAS in urban areas of the nation, middle and upper income families
19 can purchase the services which are offered by Head Start to lower income
20 families but in the rural areas of Alaska these alternative services are not
21 available at all; and

22 WHEREAS the effect of the Secretary's decision is to deny children in
23 rural areas of Alaska the early training essential to prepare them to become
24 familiar with their own cultures as well as other cultures; and

25 WHEREAS Senate Bill 1919 would provide more flexibility for partici-
26 pation in Head Start and thus would deal more realistically with the needs of
27 the pre-school children of the rural communities of Alaska;

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it wholeheartedly
29 supports Senate Bill 1919 and urges the United States Congress to enact the

1 bill at the earliest possible time.

2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph Califano,
3 Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
4 and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
5 U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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