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Referred: Health, Education &
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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 "A resolution endorsing the concept
6 and requesting implementation of the
7 Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978."

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

9 WHEREAS the Congress of the United States has adopted the Indian Child
10 Welfare Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-608) declaring "[T]hat it is the policy of this
11 Nation to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the
12 stability and security of Indian tribes and families by the establishment of
13 minimum Federal standards for the removal of Indian children from their
14 families and the placement of such children in foster or adoptive homes which
15 will reflect the unique values of Indian culture...."; and

16 WHEREAS it is state policy to promote the stability and security of
17 Native American families; and

18 WHEREAS historically a highly disproportionate number of Native American
19 children in Alaska are from families broken up by the removal of children
20 with an alarmingly high percentage of these children being placed in non-
21 Native foster homes, adoptive homes or institutions; and

22 WHEREAS the primary intent of the Act is to prevent the break up of
23 Native American families and to preserve the cultural and social standards
24 prevailing in Native culture; and

25 WHEREAS the intent and policy of the Act accords with, and is a strong
26 tool for implementation of, state policy;

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that:

28 (1) the legislature endorses and supports the concept and policy
29 of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-608);

1 (2) the Governor is urgently requested to direct the Department of
2 Health and Social Services to promptly take steps necessary for implemen-
3 tation of the Act in Alaska.

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