

Introduced: 3/8/79  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY PHILLIPS AND MARTIN

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting Congress to permit work-  
6 fare programs and urging all states  
7 to make similar requests of Congress.

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

9 WHEREAS welfare costs have skyrocketed in Alaska, more than tripling in  
10 the most recent eight-year time period; and

11 WHEREAS excess welfare costs drain scarce dollars that are much needed  
12 throughout Alaska for many other basic state programs and services such as  
13 education, health, and public safety; and

14 WHEREAS Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) is the largest  
15 federal and state funded cash assistance program providing over \$18 million  
16 in aid to over 13,000 needy Alaskan children and their families; and

17 WHEREAS Alaska pays one-half of the total costs of the AFDC program  
18 administered in the state, yet is given little flexibility by the federal  
19 government to design a program that channels our limited dollars to needy  
20 children and only to those needy AFDC adults who are disabled or who are  
21 willing to work in exchange for their welfare checks; and

22 WHEREAS many Alaskans, as well as other taxpayers across the United  
23 States, are alarmed by the rising costs of welfare and are demanding a  
24 mechanism to require able-bodied AFDC adults to provide society with some  
25 tangible work product; and

26 WHEREAS mandatory workfare programs are seen by many as not only pro-  
27 viding the state with a mechanism to remove from the welfare rolls idlers who  
28 refuse to work for their welfare grant, but also as (1) promoting client  
29 dignity, self-esteem, and responsible work attitudes, (2) assisting clients

1 in establishing a work history often necessary for obtaining permanent gain-  
2 ful employment, and (3) providing needed services to society that might  
3 otherwise require additional state revenues; and

4 WHEREAS those states which have attempted to implement workfare systems  
5 have been threatened with the loss of substantial federal funds because  
6 workfare programs are not permitted under federal law;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
8 the United States Congress to amend provisions of federal law to permit  
9 workfare programs for AFDC able-bodied adults without jeopardizing federal  
10 funding for the state's welfare programs; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature calls on the state  
12 legislatures in all of the states to forward similar resolutions to the  
13 United States Congress acknowledging their interest in such a change of  
14 federal law and urging Congress to pass legislation allowing for workfare  
15 programs.

16 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Warren G.  
17 Magnuson, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate; the Honorable  
18 Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the United States House of Representa-  
19 tives; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S.  
20 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the  
21 Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the presiding officers of each house of  
22 the legislatures of all the states and the governing bodies of Puerto Rico,  
23 the Virgin Islands, Guam and the District of Columbia.

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