

Introduced: 2/12/82
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BEIRNE AND MILLER

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 82

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the plight of the Siberian
6 Pentecostals who are on a hunger
7 strike in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

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

9 WHEREAS there are two Siberian families, the Vashchenkos and the
10 Chmykhalovs, who have been refuged in the United States Embassy in Moscow
11 since June 27, 1978, in an attempt to get American help in their campaign to
12 leave the Soviet Union for America to enjoy the exercise of religious freedom
13 as members of the Pentecostal faith; and

14 WHEREAS the efforts of the United States Embassy officials and the
15 federal administration have been unsuccessful to date in securing Soviet
16 permission for the emigration of the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs; and

17 WHEREAS Lydia Vashchenko and her mother, Augustina Vashchenko, have been
18 on a hunger strike since late December 1981, to try to bring attention to
19 their plight in order to effect a speedy resolution of their dilemma by the
20 Soviet Union; and

21 WHEREAS the health and very lives of Lydia Vashchenko and Augustina
22 Vashchenko are threatened by their hunger strike which they continue in the
23 hope of obtaining immediate attention to their emigration requests; and

24 WHEREAS the courage and determination displayed by the Vashchenkos and
25 the Chmykalovs in their struggle to obtain freedom is an inspiration to all
26 who value religious freedom and individual human rights;

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the people of the
28 State of Alaska reaffirm their belief that these truths are self-evident --
29 that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with

1 certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the
2 pursuit of happiness; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal administration and Congress are urged
4 to make every reasonable effort to secure an expeditious resolution of the
5 emigration requests of the Vashchenkos and Chmykalovs to reaffirm the self-
6 evident truths upon which the United States of America was founded and
7 continues to symbolize for all people who cherish those truths.

8 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
9 President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of
10 the United States and President of the Senate; the Honorable Thomas P.
11 O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives; and to the Honorable
12 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
13 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
14 Congress.