

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to property rights of di-  
6 vorced persons to the military pen-  
7 sions of their former spouses.

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

9 WHEREAS the United States Supreme Court ruled in June of this year that  
10 a military pension is not property subject to division by a court as part of  
11 a divorce settlement; and

12 WHEREAS the effect of this ruling on former spouses of military personnel  
13 has been devastating; and

14 WHEREAS middle-aged and older persons who are divorced after years of  
15 marriage to a person in the military face particular hardship because they  
16 are often unable to compete in the job market; and

17 WHEREAS after divorce all military benefits to the former spouse cease,  
18 often leaving the former spouse without medical insurance coverage or other  
19 assistance; and

20 WHEREAS the spouses of military personnel are often unable to pursue  
21 careers of their own because they must move whenever required by the military  
22 service; and

23 WHEREAS former spouses of military personnel, especially older women,  
24 are sometimes forced to seek welfare and other public assistance; and

25 WHEREAS since current welfare and public assistance costs need to be  
26 reduced, it makes no sense to deprive a former spouse of a fair share of a  
27 military pension earned during the marriage thereby forcing that former  
28 spouse to obtain public assistance; and

29 WHEREAS the spouses of military personnel serve their country and

1 deserve security in their old age, just as enlisted persons do; and

2 WHEREAS often the military pension is the main asset that a couple has;

3 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
4 the Alaska delegation in Congress to introduce and support legislation making  
5 a military pension subject to division between spouses who are obtaining a  
6 divorce.

7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to and to the Honorable Ted  
8 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable  
9 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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