

Introduced: 1/14/86  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services and Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY GRUENBERG AND MARROU

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 56

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Urging the United States Senate to

6

consent to the ratification by the

7

United States of the Convention on the

8

Prevention and Punishment of the Crime

9

of Genocide.

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

11 WHEREAS the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime  
12 of Genocide makes genocide a crime under international law, and pledges  
13 that the nations signatory to the convention will make genocide a crime  
14 under their internal criminal law; and

15 WHEREAS the convention is a strong message of commitment to preserve  
16 human life and prevent the deliberate destruction of entire ethnic  
17 populations, which has occurred on a number of occasions during this  
18 century; and

19 WHEREAS the United Nations unanimously adopted the convention in 1948;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS the United States has not yet ratified the convention; and

22 WHEREAS, except for the United States, Portugal, and Thailand, all  
23 NATO and SEATO members are formal parties to the convention; and

24 WHEREAS the continued failure of the United States to ratify the  
25 convention has weakened this country's posture in many parts of the world  
26 and makes the United States vulnerable to charges of insincerity; and

27 WHEREAS ratification of the convention will demonstrate unequivocally  
28 the desire of the United States to participate in the building of interna-  
29 tional order based on law and justice; and

1       **WHEREAS** United States ratification of the genocide convention is long  
2 overdue; and

3       **WHEREAS** President Reagan has endorsed the convention if three under-  
4 standings and one declaration are added to it, but the United States Senate  
5 has failed so far to consent to the ratification; and

6       **WHEREAS** the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime  
7 of Genocide is good law, good policy, good morality, and good politics;

8       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States  
9 Senate is urged to consent to the ratification of the Convention on the  
10 Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the three under-  
11 standings and one declaration that President Reagan has endorsed.

12       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
13 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-  
14 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; and to the  
15 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and  
16 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska dele-  
17 gation in Congress.