

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Supporting the establishment of a pro-

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gram leading to a Master of Social Work

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degree at the University of Alaska.

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

9 WHEREAS there is a substantial need for a program leading to a Master  
10 of Social Work degree (MSW) in the state, as evidenced by the most recent  
11 assessment conducted by Dr. Diane Bernard, who was formerly with the Coun-  
12 cil of Social Work Education and is eminently qualified to conduct this  
13 type of assessment; and

14 WHEREAS, of the 18 agencies in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau that  
15 were contacted as part of the assessment, 16 indicated that there was an  
16 immediate need for state-trained master social workers to provide basic  
17 social work services, including rural, cross-cultural, and substance abuse  
18 services; and

19 WHEREAS social workers are specifically trained to address rural,  
20 cross-cultural, and substance abuse issues and are trained to bring re-  
21 sources in line with human needs; and

22 WHEREAS state agencies, particularly the division of family and youth  
23 services in the Department of Health and Social Services, have expressed a  
24 desperate need for additional qualified social workers; and

25 WHEREAS, in a follow-up study of Bachelor of Social Work graduates  
26 from the University of Alaska, 60 percent wanted to pursue a MSW and would  
27 prefer to obtain that degree in the state; and

28 WHEREAS an advisory committee composed of representatives of the  
29 University of Alaska, the Department of Health and Social Services, Native

1 organizations, students, private practitioners, and state legislators was  
2 created to address the feasibility of a program leading to the MSW degree  
3 in the state, and that committee recommended the implementation of the  
4 program;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the addition  
6 of a program leading to the Master in Social Work degree to the University  
7 of Alaska and encourages the University of Alaska to initiate the develop-  
8 ment and implementation of that program as expeditiously as possible.