

Offered: 4/7/89
Referred: Finance

6-0734E

Original sponsor: Health, Education and
Social Services Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16 (HESS)

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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, mental health, and
18 substance abuse services; and

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS an advisory committee composed of representatives of the

1 University of Alaska, the Department of Health and Social Services, Native
2 organizations, students, private practitioners, and state legislators was
3 created to address the feasibility of a program leading to the MSW degree
4 in the state, and that committee recommended the implementation of the
5 program;

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