Offered: 3/13/89
For Today's Calendar

6-0757E

Original sponsors: Spohnholz, Ulmer, Goll, and Menard

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Supporting the federal Act for Better
6 Child Care Services.

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

8 WHEREAS the number of children living in homes where both parents work
9 outside the home, or living in homes with a single parent who works outside
10 the home, has increased dramatically over the last decade; and

11 WHEREAS the number of quality child care arrangements falls far short
12 of the number required for children in need of child care services; and

13 WHEREAS high quality early childhood development programs are cost-
14 effective because they can reduce the chances of juvenile delinquency and
15 adolescent pregnancy and can improve the likelihood that children will
16 finish high school and become employed; and

17 WHEREAS making adequate child care services available for parents who
18 are employed, seeking employment, or seeking to develop employment skills
19 would strengthen the well-being of families and the national economy; and

20 WHEREAS the shortage of quality child care options for children and
21 parents stems from a combination of factors, including inability of parents
22 to pay for child care services, lack of adequate information about child
23 care services, lack of training opportunities for staff in child care
24 programs, high rates of staff turnover at child care facilities, and wide
25 differences among the states in child care licensing and enforcement poli-
26 cies; and

27 WHEREAS a bill has been introduced in the United States House of
28 Representatives, with a similar proposal introduced in the United States
29 Senate, known as an Act for Better Child Care Services (H.R. 30 and S. 5);

1 and

2 WHEREAS H.R. 30 and S. 5 would promote the availability and diversity
3 of quality child care services for all families who need these services by
4 providing assistance to states to improve the quality of, and coordination
5 among, child care programs; and

6 WHEREAS these federal bills would increase the opportunities for
7 attracting and retaining qualified staff in the field of child care;

8 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly endorses
9 increased federal assistance to states for improving the availability and
10 quality of child care services through the prompt enactment of H.R. 30 or
11 S. 5.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
13 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
14 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C.
15 Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim Wright,
16 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted
17 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
18 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-
19 gress.