

Amended: 3/15/89
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) am

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Supporting federal legislation for

6

improving 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 more than 100 bills relating to child care were introduced in

28

the 100th session of the United States Congress, and at least six major

29

approaches to improving child care have been introduced in the 101st

1 session; and

2 WHEREAS many of these proposals would promote the availability and
3 diversity of quality child care services for all families who need these
4 services by providing assistance to states to improve the quality of, and
5 coordination 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 improving the availability and quality of child care services.

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