

Offered: 4/27/89
Referred: Rules

6-1259E

Original sponsors: MacLean, Hoffman,
Cato, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 47 (State Affairs)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Supporting the establishment of a Joint
6 Commission on the Status of Alaska
7 Natives by Congress.

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

9 WHEREAS Alaska Natives were the first residents of the state and today
10 represent a significant percentage of the residents of the state, particu-
11 larly residents who live in rural villages; and

12 WHEREAS since 1867 Alaska Natives have had a special relationship with
13 the federal government and since 1959 have had an important relationship
14 with the state; and

15 WHEREAS in 1971 the state participated in the settlement of Native
16 land claims and since that time has worked closely with the federal govern-
17 ment and Native organizations to develop and implement federal and state
18 policies intended to improve the health, social, and economic status of
19 Alaska Natives; and

20 WHEREAS several recently published articles and reports have docu-
21 mented a growing social and economic crisis in the lives of many Alaska
22 Natives, particularly Alaska Natives who live in rural villages, and pre-
23 sented disturbing statistics that attest to growing health and social
24 problems, lack of economic opportunity, and widespread educational failure
25 in the Native community; and

26 WHEREAS since 1969, when the Federal Field Committee for Development
27 Planning issued its report "Alaska Natives and the Land," there has been no
28 comprehensive review of federal and state policies and programs that affect
29 Alaska Natives, their implementation, or the extent to which they have

1 improved the health, social, and economic status of Alaska Natives; and

2 WHEREAS Alaska Natives have expressed to the Congress and the state a
3 critical need to review the current status of Alaska Natives and to forge a
4 renewed partnership among the federal and state governments and Alaska
5 Natives, with the goal of providing new opportunities, making governmental
6 programs more effective, and building a healthy, productive, and self-
7 reliant rural Alaska; and

8 WHEREAS, in response to this expressed need, the United States Con-
9 gress is considering the establishment of a Joint Commission on the Status
10 of Alaska Natives, the membership of which will include federal and state
11 officials and Alaska Natives; and

12 WHEREAS the purpose of the commission will be to conduct a comprehen-
13 sive review of federal and state policies affecting Alaska Natives, the
14 implementation of those policies, and the current health, social, and
15 economic status of Alaska Natives;

16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the
17 establishment of the Joint Commission on the Status of Alaska Natives by
18 the Congress and commits the State of Alaska to actively participate on the
19 commission and in its work.

20 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle,
21 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the
22 Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
23 Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chair, Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs;
24 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
25 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
26 Alaska delegation in Congress.