

Original sponsor(s): REP. MARTIN, Zawacki, Leman, Gruenberg

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63 (State Affairs)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to persons immigrating to and
6 requesting asylum in the United States.

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

8 WHEREAS the Eastern Bloc countries of Hungary, Poland, East Germany,
9 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and
10 Romania are moving away from communism towards democracy; and

11 WHEREAS some individuals from these countries have requested political
12 asylum and freedom in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS the change from communism towards democracy in the Eastern
14 Bloc countries is being considered by the Immigration and Naturalization
15 Service when it evaluates the political asylum applications of persons from
16 the Eastern Bloc countries, and this approach may prevent some persons from
17 receiving asylum in the United States because they may not be considered to
18 need political asylum any more; and

19 WHEREAS elements of the military, police, and leadership in some of
20 the Eastern Bloc countries still remain under the control of communist
21 authorities and, if applications for political asylum from these countries
22 are denied, the applicants fear persecution by the communist-controlled
23 elements after they are deported from the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, although the Alaska State Legislature supports glasnost and
25 perestroika, it recognizes that the governments of the Eastern Bloc coun-
26 tries will be unstable until the political changes are complete; and

27 WHEREAS the United States is a strong supporter of human rights and
28 was founded on the principle of the individual's right to life, liberty,
29 and the pursuit of happiness; and

1 WHEREAS Alaska has benefited from the immigrants who have already come
2 to the state; and

3 WHEREAS Alaska can provide a sanctuary for persons who seek political
4 asylum in the United States;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature

6 (1) declares that it welcomes immigrants from foreign countries
7 and is willing to serve as a sanctuary for persons who are seeking polit-
8 ical asylum in the United States; and

9 (2) urges the United States Immigration and Naturalization
10 Service

11 (A) to halt the process of deportation from the United
12 States of persons from Eastern Bloc countries who have requested
13 political asylum and are on United States soil;

14 (B) not to use the recent political changes in the Eastern
15 Bloc countries

16 (i) to deny political asylum to persons from those
17 countries, even if an application for asylum was submitted before
18 the changes began; or

19 (ii) to revoke the political asylum already granted to
20 persons from those countries;

21 (C) to grant amnesty or political asylum on humanitarian
22 grounds to each person who is on United States soil, who has submitted
23 an application for political asylum in the United States, and who
24 would have been eligible for asylum except for the recent political
25 changes in the Eastern Bloc countries, unless the person could be
26 considered a threat to national security or is otherwise determined to
27 be undesirable under current United States immigration law.

28 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
29 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of

1 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S.
2 Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Gene
3 McNary, Commissioner-Designate of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
4 Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
5 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
6 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.