

BY THE HESS COMMITTEE

1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 95

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Supporting federal pro-choice legis-

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lation and the availability of public

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money to pay for abortions for victims

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of rape and incest.

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

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WHEREAS a woman's freedom to determine her personal destiny and the

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destiny of her family cannot exist without the basic freedom to make deci-

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sions about her own body and the use of its reproductive capacity; and

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WHEREAS government restrictions on the legality and availability of

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medical procedures to terminate pregnancies deny to women this fundamental

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right to control their bodies and to make decisions about their families;

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and

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WHEREAS the right to make and carry out private decisions about termi-

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nating pregnancies was affirmed in 1973 by the United States Supreme Court

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as a right that is inherent in the concept of personal liberty protected

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under the federal constitution's fourteenth amendment; and

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WHEREAS Alaskans approved an amendment to the state constitution in

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1972 that explicitly recognizes that all citizens of the state have a right

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to privacy, and our courts have consistently held that this state privacy

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right is even broader than the privacy right recognized under the federal

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constitution; and

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WHEREAS Alaskans defeated an initiative in 1982 that would have pro-

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hibited the use of state money to pay for abortions for victims of rape or

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incest; and

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WHEREAS Alaskans continue to exhibit healthy skepticism of government

1 power by rejecting unwarranted government intrusion into their personal  
2 lives on a broad range of issues; and

3 WHEREAS involuntary pregnancy testing coupled with criminalization of  
4 abortion in Romania and the government policies that force involuntary  
5 abortions in the Republic of China are chilling examples of how govern-  
6 mental intrusion into private decisions transforms women's bodies into  
7 property of the state; and

8 WHEREAS it is the sense of the legislature that an overwhelming major-  
9 ity of Alaskans adamantly believe that a pregnant woman, and not the state,  
10 should determine whether she should give birth; and

11 WHEREAS a freedom as basic as control over one's body and a right as  
12 fundamental as the right to make private, personal decisions about one's  
13 family are issues of national concern that should not depend on which state  
14 a person resides in; and

15 WHEREAS there is federal legislation co-sponsored by United States  
16 Senator Ted Stevens that recognizes that these are issues of national  
17 concern by prohibiting state restrictions on the right of a woman to choose  
18 to terminate a pregnancy; and

19 WHEREAS this federal legislation, known as the "Freedom of Choice Act  
20 of 1989," is numbered S. 1912 in the United States Senate and H.R. 3700 in  
21 the United States House of Representatives;

22 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports  
23 passage of the Freedom of Choice Act and urges the entire Alaska congress-  
24 sional delegation to actively work for enactment of S. 1912 or H.R. 3700  
25 without amendments that would restrict a woman's right to control her own  
26 body and make private decisions about her family's destiny; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature calls upon Presi-  
28 dent George Bush to change his opposition to the use of public funds for  
29 abortions for victims of rape and incest.

1           COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,  
2 President of the United States; to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President  
3 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable  
4 Robert C. Byrd, President Pro-tempore of the U.S. Senate, for distribution  
5 to all U.S. Senators; to the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S.  
6 House of Representatives, for distribution to all U.S. Representatives; and  
7 to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Sena-  
8 tors, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the  
9 Alaska delegation in Congress.