

Original sponsor(s): SEN. FAIKS, Szymanski

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 61 (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 changes in the Eastern Bloc countries are being considered
14 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service when it evaluates the politi-
15 cal asylum applications of persons from the Eastern Bloc countries; and
16 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that the governments
17 of the Eastern Bloc countries may be subject to change during a period of
18 political unrest; and
19 WHEREAS the United States is a strong supporter of human rights and
20 was founded on the principle of the individual's right to life, liberty,
21 and the pursuit of happiness; and
22 WHEREAS Alaska has benefited from the immigrants who have already come
23 to the state; and
24 WHEREAS Alaska can provide a sanctuary for persons who seek political
25 asylum in the United States;
26 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature
27 (1) declares that it welcomes immigrants from foreign countries
28 and is willing to serve as a sanctuary for persons who are seeking polit-
29 ical asylum in the United States; and

1 (2) urges the United States Immigration and Naturalization
2 Service

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

6 (B) not to use the recent political changes in the Eastern
7 Bloc countries

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

11 (ii) to revoke the political asylum already granted to
12 persons from those countries;

13 (C) to grant amnesty or political asylum on humanitarian
14 grounds to each person who is on United States soil, who has submitted
15 an application for political asylum in the United States, and who
16 would have been eligible for asylum except for the recent political
17 changes in the Eastern Bloc countries, unless the person could be
18 considered a threat to national security or is otherwise determined to
19 be undesirable under current United States immigration law.

20 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
21 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
22 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S.
23 Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Gene
24 McNary, Commissioner-Designate of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
25 Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
26 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
27 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.