

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GRUENBERG, Koponen, Lincoln, Brown, Boyer, Bruckman, Carney, B.Davis, Donley, Ellis, Finkelstein, Hudson, Ivan, Mackie, MacLean, Moyer, Navarre, Ulmer

Introduced: 2/22/91
Referred: Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the Equal Rights Amendment.

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

3 WHEREAS approximately 31,000 women, six percent of the total United States forces in the
4 Persian Gulf, now serve in that conflict; and

5 WHEREAS women have shown themselves to be the equal of men in their willingness to
6 volunteer for active duty and risk their lives for our country; and

7 WHEREAS women should be entitled to equal protection under the laws of the United States
8 and the several states; and

9 WHEREAS 200 years after the ratification of the United States Constitution, women yet do not
10 enjoy the basic "equality of rights under the law" that a federal Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would
11 provide; and

12 WHEREAS the ERA is needed to achieve permanent protection against sexual discrimination
13 because individual laws can be repealed at any time; and

14 WHEREAS a federal ERA would result in the extension of equal rights to all American women
15 and men; and

16 WHEREAS passage of the ERA will reaffirm our strong national policy guaranteeing equal
17 rights, and prohibiting discrimination based on sex; and

1 **WHEREAS** in 1972 Alaska became the 17th state to ratify the ERA, and amended art. I, sec. 3,
2 of the Alaska Constitution to add its own "Little ERA," thus reaffirming its own long-standing basic
3 commitment' to fundamental human rights; and

4 **WHEREAS** SJR 3 in the United States Senate and HJR 1 in the United States House of
5 Representatives both propose the Equal Rights Amendment;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to give
7 early consideration to and promptly pass SJR 3 and HJR 1, thus resubmitting to the states for ratification
8 the Equal Rights Amendment, which will amend the United States Constitution to explicitly provide that:

9 "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the
10 United States or by any State on account of sex"; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature invites all other state legislatures to
12 join in this request to the Congress and in early ratification of the amendment.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
14 States; Barbara Bush, First Lady of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the
15 United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dick Cheney, Secretary of the U.S.
16 Department of Defense; General Colin Powell, Chair, Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Honorable Thomas S.
17 Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, U.S. Senate
18 Majority Leader; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
19 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to
20 all 49 other state legislatures.