

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 42
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES B.DAVIS, Brown, Ellis, Koponen, C.Davis, Bruckman, Finkelstein, Ulmer, Navarre, Moyer, MacLean, Lincoln, Kubina, Jacko, Ivan, Gruenberg, Mackie, Boyer, Parnell, Larson, Carney, Donley, Baker, Foster, Gonzales, Sharp, Zawacki

Introduced: 4/26/91

Referred: Health, Education & Social Services

A RESOLUTION

**1 Urging the Bush Administration and the Congress to increase funding for the Women,
2 Infants, and Children Program so that it is available to all eligible persons.**

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

**4 WHEREAS the federal Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) provides medical care
5 and nutritious supplemental food to women and children, including prenatal care to pregnant women;
6 and**

**7 WHEREAS WIC's supplemental food and medical care give children the healthy start they need
8 to learn well in school and achieve their full potential as human beings; and**

**9 WHEREAS WIC's early prenatal care for pregnant women significantly improves pregnancy
10 outcomes, decreasing the number of fetal deaths that might otherwise occur and averting low-birth-
11 weight babies who would otherwise get off to a slow start in life; and**

**12 WHEREAS WIC is highly cost effective in the long run because healthy, educated children can
13 become the productive citizens our country needs to remain competitive in an increasingly international
14 economy; and**

**15 WHEREAS WIC is also highly cost effective in the short run because low-birth-weight babies
16 and malnourished children would require more expensive health care under other public assistance**

1 programs; and

2 **WHEREAS** WIC currently serves only 9,174 of the estimated 25,821 potentially eligible women,
3 infants, and children in Alaska; and

4 **WHEREAS** Alaska has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country; and

5 **WHEREAS** food costs in Alaska are high, especially in rural areas, so that WIC dollars based
6 on current allocations from insufficient funds can serve fewer participants compared to other states; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Congress, through the work of the Budget and Appropriations Committees, has
8 been regularly increasing WIC funding levels, but this year's funding level will still serve only 54
9 percent of those who are eligible nationwide, leaving 4,000,000 women, infants, and children without
10 the benefits of the program; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Bush Administration has recommended further increases in WIC funding for
12 fiscal year 1992 but the program would still be grossly underfunded; and

13 **WHEREAS** full funding of WIC is an important cornerstone in building toward the national goal
14 of ensuring that, by the year 2000, all children should start school ready to learn;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature commends the Administration and the
16 Congress for their prior actions that have increased funding for WIC; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature strongly urges the Administration and the Congress
18 to continue to invest in our future by increasing WIC funding so that all eligible women, infants, and
19 children will be served no later than fiscal year 1995.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the
21 United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore
22 of the U.S. Senate and Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable George
23 Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S.
24 House of Representatives; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on
25 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; the Honorable Edward M. Kennedy, Chair of the U.S. Senate
26 Committee on Labor and Human Resources; the Honorable E (Kika) de la Garza, Chair of the U.S.
27 House Committee on Agriculture; the Honorable Jamie L. Whitten, Chair of the U.S. House Committee
28 on Appropriations; the Honorable William D. Ford, Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Education
29 and Labor; the Honorable George Miller, Chair of the U.S. House Select Committee on Children, Youth,
30 and Families; the Honorable Tony P. Hall, Chair of the U.S. House Select Committee on Hunger; and
31 to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
32 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.