

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE B.DAVIS

Introduced: 1/11/93

Referred: State Affairs, Health, Education & Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting passage of federal legislation to aid children and their families.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the United States has a higher percentage of children in poverty than
4 either western Europe or Canada; in 1989 one out of five American children lived in poverty;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS** the United States does not have a national health program that provides
7 medical care to virtually all of its population, unlike 21 other developed nations; and

8 **WHEREAS** one in four students in the United States will not graduate from high
9 school with his or her peers and another one of those four students will graduate, but will be
10 deficient in basic skills and work habits; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Congress has considered legislation, known as KIDSNET and
12 originally introduced as H.R. 3147 during the 102d Congress, that would address the problems
13 of children in poverty by authorizing full funding for the Head Start program, the Childhood
14 Immunization program, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program; and

15 **WHEREAS** KIDSNET seeks to expand coverage of the Head Start program, the
16 Childhood Immunization program, and the WIC program to include all eligible persons by
17 1996 by exempting these programs from the discretionary spending limits imposed by the

1 Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-508) in order to allow the Congress to appropriate
2 more funds for these programs without requiring new revenues or offsets; and

3 **WHEREAS** participants in the Head Start program show significant immediate gains
4 in cognitive ability, self-esteem, achievement motivation, and social behavior and are less
5 likely to fail a grade in school or to be assigned to special education than children who are
6 never enrolled in the program; and

7 **WHEREAS** childhood immunization programs have caused significant declines in the
8 incidence of the major diseases of rubella, mumps, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and
9 meningitis; and

10 **WHEREAS** participation in the WIC program reduces fetal deaths by one-third,
11 reduces by up to 25 percent the number of premature births among high risk and minority
12 mothers, improves the diets of pregnant women and children, brings more women into prenatal
13 care earlier, and improves the likelihood that children will have a source of regular medical
14 care and be better immunized; and

15 **WHEREAS** the cost of KIDSNET (up to \$9,800,000,000 by 1996) is dwarfed by the
16 long term costs to the nation in welfare payments, poor job performance, remedial education,
17 lost economic opportunity due to illness and early death, special education programs, and other
18 programs that can be avoided if KIDSNET is implemented;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
20 Congress to act expeditiously in passing legislation implementing KIDSNET; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
22 President of the United States to support KIDSNET and to sign the appropriate legislation into
23 law as soon as possible.

24 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of
25 the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and
26 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the
27 U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives;
28 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
29 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
30 Congress.