

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY SENATORS LEMAN, Phillips**

**Introduced: 2/14/94**

**Referred: Health, Education and Social Services**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Relating to welfare reform.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** there is growing concern among the states that the current welfare system,  
4 comprised of aid to families with dependent children, food stamps, and Medicaid, is largely  
5 ineffective in assisting welfare families to become independent wage-earning families; and

6 **WHEREAS** the increasing costs of the welfare system have contributed to the fiscal  
7 straits of many states as well as having a substantial effect on the budget of the federal  
8 government; and

9 **WHEREAS** one advantage of the federal system of government is that each state can  
10 serve as a laboratory for social and economic experiments designed to improve the lives of  
11 its citizens, and the experiments that are successful can be models for programs in other states  
12 or for the nation as a whole; and

13 **WHEREAS** the uniform requirements of the federal welfare system and the federal  
14 government's reluctance to grant waivers to the states stifles the states' ability to experiment  
15 with programs that may be more effective in reducing welfare dependency and decreasing  
16 welfare costs;

1           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Congress to modify  
2 the federal laws governing the welfare system so that more flexibility is granted to the states  
3 to design their welfare programs and so that the Secretary of Health and Human Services may  
4 be more liberal in granting waivers from federal requirements; and be it

5           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Secretary of  
6 Health and Human Services to use liberally its current authority to grant waivers to states that  
7 want to design different welfare programs and to faithfully execute the intent of the Congress  
8 if the laws governing the welfare system are amended in the future to grant broader authority  
9 to the secretary to grant these waivers.

10           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President  
11 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President  
12 Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House  
13 of Representatives; the Honorable Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services;  
14 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and  
15 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in  
16 Congress.