

HCR

30

Alaska State Legislature

WHILE IN SESSION
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DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPT. OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Representative Joe Green

District 10

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HCR 30 - Student Rights

House Concurrent Resolution 30 was introduced to send a strong message to students, parents and schools that education and school safety are top priorities with the 19th Legislature. Children are one of the state's most valuable resources for the future economic and social well-being of our state. We, as elected leaders have the responsibility to safeguard their future to the best of our ability.

Education should be the key concern of a parent sending a child to school, yet the issue of safety has surpassed this concern. In 1940, the major problems in public schools identified by teachers were talking out of turn, chewing gum, making noise in the classroom, running in the halls, cutting in line, littering, and disobeying the dress code. Educators now consider the top problems to be assaults by students on teachers and other students, weapons in school, racial or ethnic attacks, gang disruptions, shootings, knifings, and drive-by shootings. While schools should be a safe haven for learning, many students are burdened with intimidation and fear of violence.

This resolution declares that our children have a right to be provided with a safe, orderly, and drug free environment in which they can learn, and that they have a right to high academic standards in order to prepare them to meet the challenges they will encounter in the future. Our present system, programs, and attitudes need to be changed. The conditions that allow students to become disenfranchised need to be identified and reworked. With the cooperation of parents, educators, and elected officials, we can all work together to provide our children the quality they will need and education they deserve.



Anchorage School District

April 1, 1996

4600 DeBarr Road
P. O. Box 196614
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6614
(907) 333-9561

Dear Representative Green:

SCHOOL BOARD

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Bob Christal

The Anchorage School District supports HCR 30, and offers as evidence of our support, the attached ASD Statement of Rights and Responsibilities and Anchorage School Board Resolutions:

- ASD STATEMENT OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- RESOLUTION URGING STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND THE ANCHORAGE COMMUNITY TO JOIN IN CONDEMNING AND REJECTING RACISM, HARASSMENT, RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY AND ANTI-SEMITIC ATTACKS
- RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES.

Please feel free to adopt any of the components of these into your HCR 30 as you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Larry Wiget
Larry Wiget, Director
Government Relations

Anchorage School Board Resolutions

A Resolution Urging Staff, Students, Parents, and the Anchorage Community

To Join In Condemning and Rejecting Racism, Harassment, Religious Bigotry and Anti-Semitic Attacks

Whereas, students within the Anchorage School District have experienced an increase in racial incidents and mail expressing racism, anti-semitism and religious bigotry; and

Whereas, children within the Anchorage School District are coming increasingly into contact with students allied with various hate groups; and

Whereas, recent vandalism and harassment has had both racial and sexual overtones; and

Whereas, such behavior is unacceptable in a sound educational environment that is built on the premise that every student must be nurtured with respect for gender, ethnic, and religious diversity to support a healthy society; and

Whereas, the Anchorage School District prepares students to join our community rich in ideas and accomplishments attained through a tradition of shared learning, creativity and effort.

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Anchorage School Board:

1. Urges the students, staff, parents and all citizens of Anchorage to join us in condemning and repelling this bigotry, and in standing up for the principles and practices of equity, freedom, tolerance, compassion and responsibility that safeguard against such practices.
2. Wishes to send a clear message that actions which violate a student's right to good self-esteem and quality education, and which inhibit respect for every human being are contrary to our educational values and will not be tolerated; and
3. Urges Anchorage School District staff, parents, government agencies, other education, religious and service groups to strengthen their educational efforts to address this problem.

A Resolution in Support of Safe Schools For All Students and Employees

Whereas, students and employees have a right to attend and work in schools without fear of violence to themselves or others;

Whereas, safe schools enhance the learning environment, necessary for quality schools, which are essential to a successful democracy;

Whereas, the causes for violence are multiple: chronic poverty, the lack of role models, the disintegration of families, and a popular culture that seems to glorify violence;

Whereas, a major Louis Harris poll about American youth reports that 1 in 25 students have taken a firearm to school, and many know where to get a firearm;

Whereas, this increases the potential for violence in our schools;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Anchorage School Board:

- establish and promote activities to encourage a closer home-school relationship designed to focus positive support and to promote success of all students and to promote a safe school environment;
- encourage local school efforts to promote positive working relationships between the local school parent groups(s), the employees, the community at large, and the students to establish a safe school plan at each local school;
- continue a zero tolerance towards weapons and violence in schools;
- continue policies and procedures that prohibit possession or use of weapons, or the commission of violent acts by any one in the school setting;
- develop policies and procedures for the appropriate training of school district employees in dealing with these issues;
- adopt policies and procedures related to the safety of students, parents, and employees in the school setting that are clearly communicated to staff and the community;
- assess periodically the state of school decorum and report it to school employees, students, parents, and the community at large.

ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS

316 West 11th Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1510 • Tel. (907) 686-1033 • Fax (907) 588-2995

Advocates for Alaska's Youth

March 13, 1996



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Barbara Bahr

DELTA

Barbara Kaenyulia

EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR

Carl F. N. Rose

Representative Joe Green
State House District #10
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Green:

Thank you for sponsoring a House Resolution which speaks to the rights of Alaska's public school students.

The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) agrees with the tenets of this resolution. Education is a key component to teaching our children to be responsible members and positive forces in the Alaskan community and economy.

Today's societal problems are being carried into our schools. Because of this, AASB has established child advocacy as one of our top priorities. Our mission to promote parental, public, and social service commitment to the shared responsibility of educating all children empowers us to address issues that deal with the health and safety of Alaska's children.

During the 1995 AASB Annual Conference our membership adopted several resolutions which recommend giving local boards the tools to reduce violence and keep our kids free of tobacco and other harmful and addictive drugs. We ask for the tools to provide our students a top quality education which will prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow. We ask for the tools that are necessary to build community wide support for the shared responsibility of educating all of Alaska's children.

AASB supports resolutions which guarantee our children the right to a "world class" education. Thank you for your commitment to the education and well-being of Alaska's children.

Sincerely,

Carl F. N. Rose

12825 Lindsey Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
March 17, 1996

Representative Joe Green
State Capitol, Room 24
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Green:

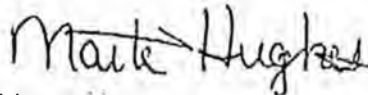
As a parent of two teenagers, I thank you for introducing House Concurrent Resolution No. HCR 30 relating to the rights of public school students. How unfortunate it is that we must take steps to insure the rights of our children in the public schools, but your resolution is indeed timely and necessary.

HCR 30 focuses on several areas that I have great concerns for: safe schools; clearly written, fair and consistent enforcement of discipline policies; the right for students to be treated by school staff members in the same manner the staff members wish students to treat them; high academic standards; and teachers knowledgeable of the subject matter they teach.

I trust this resolution will pass from Committee without hesitation and look forward to seeing it pass in the House in the immediate future.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Sincerely,



Marti Hughes
(345-8337)

Kathleen Gillespie
2741 Seafarer Loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
Phone 345-5335 / FAX 345-9891

To: The Members of the House HESS Committee
Date: March 19, 1996
RE: HCR 30

I support the adoption of HCR 30 as a statement of support for the students in our schools. In many instances, the rights of students to an environment free of fear and intimidation and based on the respect of all members of the school community is not emphasized as it should be. There are a lot of good kids in our schools who need our support and our recognition of their rights to a quality education. I hope you will pass this resolution.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL NO. HCR 30

1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____

Department Affected: Education

Title: Student Rights

BRU: Executive Administration

Component: Commissioner's Office

Sponsor: Representative Joe Green

Requester: House HESS

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 185

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING | FY 97 | FY 98 | FY 99 | FY 00 | FY 01 | FY 02 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES | | | | | | |
| TRAVEL | | | | | | |
| CONTRACTUAL | | | | | | |
| SUPPLIES | | | | | | |
| EQUIPMENT | | | | | | |
| LAND & STRUCTURES | | | | | | |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS | | | | | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | | | | | | |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | | | | | | |
| Other | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

POSITIONS:

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FULL-TIME | | | | | | |
| PART-TIME | | | | | | |
| TEMPORARY | | | | | | |

Estimate of current year (FY96) impact: \$ 0.0

ANALYSIS:

Prepared by: Kimberly Homme, Special Assistant

Phone: 465-2803

Division: Commissioner's Office

Date: March 18, 1996

Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]*

Richard S. Cross, Deputy Commissioner

Agency: Education

Date: March 18, 1996

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CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30(JUD)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE GREEN

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to rights and responsibilities of public school students.

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

3 WHEREAS the State of Alaska spends 2.6 times the national average on public
4 education spending per capita; and

5 WHEREAS education is a key component in teaching our children to be responsible,
6 productive adults; and

7 WHEREAS a well-educated workforce is necessary for the continued growth of
8 Alaska's economy; and

9 WHEREAS Alaska students' efforts to achieve academic excellence are increasingly
10 hampered by, among other things, violent and chronically disruptive behavior in the classroom
11 and on campus, a lack of funding directed to basic academics, and instructors who need more
12 training and support;

13 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages all school districts
14 in Alaska to develop and adopt operating guidelines and procedures relating to student rights
15 and responsibilities, including student behavior, treatment, and discipline; in developing
16 operating guidelines and procedures, school districts should consider:

17 (1) ways to maintain schools that are safe, orderly, and drug free;

- 1 (2) ways to develop clear discipline codes with fair and consistently enforced
2 consequences for misbehavior;
- 3 (3) ways to make resources available to encourage and maintain a physically
4 and mentally healthy lifestyle;
- 5 (4) ways to create and maintain a learning environment that is free of violent
6 and chronically disruptive behavior;
- 7 (5) ways to develop and encourage courtesy and mutual respect among
8 students, teachers, and staff;
- 9 (6) ways to create and maintain classrooms with clearly stated and rigorous
10 academic standards;
- 11 (7) ways to equip and maintain classrooms with all instructional materials
12 needed to carry out a rigorous academic program;
- 13 (8) ways to employ, nurture, and keep teachers who know their subject matter
14 and how to teach it;
- 15 (9) ways to create a learning environment in schools and classrooms where
16 high grades stand for high achievement and promotion is earned;
- 17 (10) ways to create and maintain schools where the award of a high school
18 diploma communicates that the student has the knowledge and skills essential for college or
19 a good job; and
- 20 (11) ways to generate and maintain the support of parents, the community,
21 public officials, and business in a mutual effort to uphold high standards of conduct and
22 achievement.