

HJR

47

Representative Tom Brice

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

119 N. Cushman, Ste. 205
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-456-7423 / Fax: 451-9293

While in Juneau
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-3466

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HJR 47: Supporting continued federal funding of the Alaska National Guard Youth Corps ChalleNGe Program

The Alaska National Guard Youth Corps ChalleNGe program seeks to prevent "at-risk" youths, those who have left school without having completed a high school program, from entering society's correctional systems. According to national statistics, 80 per cent of those in federal prisons do not have high school diplomas or GED certificates.

The ChalleNGe program offers the opportunity for students to complete a GED program, or return to high school with new, positive skills and strengths which allow them to obtain a diploma in a traditional setting. Currently, 85 per cent of the ChalleNGe program graduates are fully employed or attending school. 136 students have graduated from the ChalleNGe program, with another 64 slated to graduate February 16, 1996.

It can cost between \$20,000 and \$50,000 per year to house a prisoner in Alaska. For a fraction of that cost, the ANG Youth Corps ChalleNGe program offers Alaska's at-risk youths the skills necessary to not only stay out of our jails, but to succeed in today's ever more complicated society. The ChalleNGe program is cost effective, utilizing \$2.9 (1996 program year) million in federal funding to provide opportunities to succeed to at-risk young people in Alaska. At \$20,000 per year, 136 inmates would cost Alaska \$2.72 million. According to the Department of Corrections, Alaska's approximate cost for a medium security prisoner is \$107 per day, or \$39,055 per year.

Through tough, structured military-style training, ChalleNGe program graduates receive the discipline and self-esteem needed to succeed. ChalleNGe program graduates tend to have a drive to succeed, become productive Alaskans, and serve as role models for other youths and adults. ChalleNGe program graduates are likely to stay off public assistance rolls. They are also likely to support their local economies, pay taxes, and contribute to the well-being of their communities.

Supporting continued funding of this program pays off far beyond its cost.



FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HJR 47

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Office of the Governor
 Title: "A Resolution Supporting continued funding of the BRU: Executive Operations
Alaska National Guard Youth Corps Challenge Program" Component: Office of the Lt. Governor
 Sponsor: Representatives Brice, Mulder
 Requester: _____ COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 11

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 100	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						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY96) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: John Lindback, Chief of Staff *John Lindback* Phone: 465-3522
 Division: Office of the Lt. Governor Date: 2/12/96

Approved by Commissioner: Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer *Fran Ulmer* Date: 2/12/96
 Agency: _____


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M E M O R A N D U M

To: Representative Jeannette James, Chair
House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Tom Brice 

Date: February 20, 1996

Re: HJR 47: Supporting continued funding of the Alaska National
Guard Youth Corps ChalleNGe Program.

I would appreciate the scheduling of HJR 47 for a hearing before the House State Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience.

The Alaska National Guard Youth Corps ChalleNGe Program takes "at risk" young people between the ages of 16 and 18 and offers them the opportunity to complete a high school education either through a GED program or actually returning to the traditional high school setting. Through a disciplined military style program, youngsters, who by leaving school early are potentially on the path to either incarceration or welfare, receive the necessary impetus to continue their educations and learn to become contributing members of our society

The success rate of this program speaks for itself. Currently, 85 per cent of the ChalleNGe program graduates are fully employed or attending school. 136 students have graduated from the ChalleNGe program, and another 64 students were slated to graduate February 16, 1996.

The Alaska National Guard Youth Corps ChalleNGe Program has earned the Alaska Legislature's support.



ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CORPS**ChalleNGe Program**

Camp Carroll Training Site

P.O. Box 5727

Fort Richardson, Alaska 99505

(907) 384-6015/6017 or Toll Free 800-797-2267

13 February 1996

Rep. Tom Brice
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Rep. Brice;

Please accept my thanks for your support of the Alaska National Guard Youth Corps ChalleNGe Program. As you are aware, the program is designed to provide "at-risk" 16-18 year-old Alaskans with the opportunity to earn a general educational development (GED) certificate, gain some basic skills training, and learn important life skills.

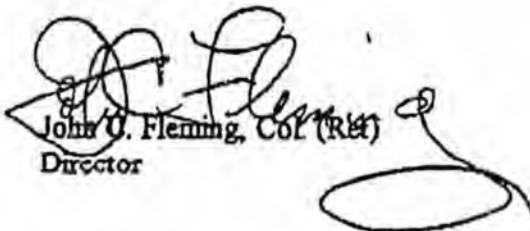
The Alaska ChalleNGe Program will graduate its fourth class, Class 95-2 this coming Friday morning. The young men and women who will cross the stage of the Fort Richardson post theater have completed a demanding 22-week residence program, which will be followed by 12 months of one-on-one assistance and tracking.

We are proud to say that ChalleNGe Program graduates are doing very well. Through our post-residential tracking program we know that 85 percent of our graduates are either employed full-time, or are currently in academic or skills training. These graduates came to us with little hope of future success. None had completed high school programs. Many had troubled lives prior to entering our program. Statistically, most of these teenagers were headed for futures on welfare or, worse, in prison.

We are encouraged by your support for the ChalleNGe Program and the well-being of these successful Alaskan young adults. Your introduction of a joint resolution in support of our efforts on behalf of our students is truly appreciated.

If my staff or I may be of any assistance to you or your fellow legislators, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely;



John U. Fleming, Col (Ret)
Director