

**HCR**

**19**

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)  
Date Referred to Committee: April 18, 1997

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/30/97

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: HCR 19

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19                      COUNCIL OF DEAF/HARD OF HEARING/DEAF/BLIN

Relating to the Alaska Council of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind.

recommends it be replaced  the same title  
with the following committee substitute \_\_\_\_\_  a new title

additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):                      (Dept)                      APPROVES PREVIOUS:                      (Dept/Date)  
 fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s)                      LAA                       zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Frank Ryan</i>	✓			
<i>Carlene</i>	✓			
<i>Carlene</i>	✓			
<i>Brian Porter</i>	✓			
<i>Allen Taylor</i>	✓			
<i>Tommy</i>	✓			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE Carlene

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
BILL VERSION: HCR 19  
PUBLISH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Relating to the Alaska Council of Deaf,  
Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind.  
Sponsor: Representative Bunde  
Requestor: House HESS

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency  
BRU: All  
Component: All

COMPONENT SERIAL NO:

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>CAPITAL</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

<b>REVENUE FUND SOURCE</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Zero fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director *Karla Schofield* Phone: 465-3852  
Division: Administrative Services Date: 4/25/97

Approved By: Pamela A. Varni, Executive Director *Pamela A. Varni*  
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency Date: 4/25/97

Distribution (by preparer): Leg. Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, Gov. , & Impacted Agency(ies).



## REPRESENTATIVE CON BUNDE

District 18

DURING SESSION  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 104  
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4843 (800) 892-4843DURING INTERIM  
716 W FOURTH AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-2133  
(907) 258-8168E-MAIL  
Representative\_Con\_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### House Concurrent Resolution 19

HCR 19 is designed to offer recognition and encouragement to a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of services available to assist Alaska's deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf/blind citizens.

The Alaska Council of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind has already operated for two years. Its members are drawn from several non-profit organizations operating in Southeast, Interior and Southcentral Alaska, and from representatives of state councils dealing with this community.

They established the Council to address the need for a central clearinghouse of information on the services available to and needed by the community of deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf/blind Alaskans. The Council is not so much a warehouse providing services, as a library and forum where information about these services is available for consumers and providers to share.

While many individuals, agencies and institutions serving this community have good intentions, they are hampered by their isolation from the large body of knowledge on deaf, hard of hearing and deaf/blind issues available elsewhere.

The deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind comprise a distinct cultural and linguistic minority, different from the mainstream linguistic and cultural population. Resources for these Alaskans are limited, and fragmented. Qualified professionals are rare. Standards of performance do not exist for most of those attempting to provide human services to them.

At least 6,000 Alaskans have some kind of hearing loss. While some hearing loss is caused by the effects of snowmachines, chainsaws or industrial noise, most deafness in Alaska is rooted in genetics, or in the effects of childhood ear infections.

At least 40 states have recognized councils, commissions or task forces relating to the deaf. This resolution will provide the Alaska Council the increased prominence in our state that will encourage various individuals, organizations and agencies to utilize its services. The resolution will also encourage non-profits to continue offering this Council their financial and organizational support.

It is important to note several things this resolution does not do. It does not create any new state council, agency, or panel. It does not establish this Council as the sole voice of the Alaska's deaf, hard of hearing and deaf/blind. It does not bar any other organization from providing any services it might want to any or all elements of this community. And, significantly, it does not cost the state a penny.

I encourage you to support this resolution to recognize and encourage the Alaska Council of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind to continue its work, sharing information and fostering understanding to improve the quality of services available to this group of Alaskans.



April 29, 1997

To: House HESS Committee Members (C. Bunde, Chair)

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 19

As Executive Director of Southeast Alaska Independent Living, I am writing this letter to both support the intentions of the above-referenced Concurrent Resolution and to encourage the House HESS Committee to recommend adoption of the resolutions as written.

This resolution will, for the first time, officially recognize the unique and specialized needs of a significant portion of Alaska's disabled population who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf/blind. Information available from the Alaska Department of Education documents significant numbers of children with hearing disabilities (including children who are both deaf and blind) who will benefit from adoption of these resolutions. In addition, as the population of Alaska ages, significant hearing loss, sometimes combined with vision loss, can and does occur. This results in greater numbers of people who experience hearing disabilities and consequently require many types of specialized services such as: vocational, rehabilitative, educational, communication, independent living, correctional, substance abuse, and mental health.

The Alaska Council of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind is willing to provide services as a referral center and clearinghouse of information for and about the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf/blind, and ***does not require or expect to require funding from state government.*** It is clear that coordination of services for the designated disability groups will result in more efficient and effective service delivery statewide, ensuring accurate facilitation of policy and program development.

SUPPORT

April 28, 1997

***Adoption of the resolution can have only positive results.***

Legislative encouragement of private citizens, state agencies, schools, social service providers, private foundations and all other parties working with or providing services to the deaf, hard of hearing, and/or deaf/blind to support the ACDHHDB and to use its services whenever appropriate will certainly be a significant milestone. It is also notable that other agencies, offices, and councils that provide services to the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf/blind support this resolution. SAIL is one example; SAIL staff provide independent living services to people with disabilities throughout its service area. SAIL demonstrates consumer-driven and consumer-focused programs for people from all disability groups, some of whom are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf/blind. This consumer-focused orientation is the exception, however, rather than the rule in organizational service delivery statewide. Adoption of the resolution will encourage and redirect service agencies and other service providers to available resources from consumers and professionals who can insure that service delivery recipients have their needs met on an ongoing basis.

Your conscientious actions toward adoption of this resolution are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Constance E. Anderson  
Executive Director



# DEAF COMMUNITY SERVICES

*Serving individuals and families throughout Alaska*

February 27, 1997

Senator Gary Wilkins, Chair  
HESS Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Con Bonde, Chair  
HESS Committee

Dear Senator Wilkins and Representative Bonde,

We want to express our deep appreciation and support for the resolution which we discussed with you during our visits in Juneau on February 12th, 1997. This resolution will establish the recognition of the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind Council, (ADC) as a statewide advisory council which will function to coordinate services and identify needs and funding at the national level.

This council is of great importance to individuals who are Deaf, Deaf/Blind or Hard of Hearing since it will represent the one voice of a community of diverse individuals and professionals who are most familiar with and qualified to provide vital services and information concerning issues about our population. The state will bear no expense as the agencies involved in these services already share the cost of operating this council. Too often decisions and policies regarding services for Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing people are made by administrators and state employees who have little knowledge or training in this very specific field. We as concerned citizens living in the state of Alaska urge your support and prompt development of this resolution. We will be more than eager to assist you in any way we can to facilitate this process.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Daniel A. LaBrosse, Executive Director

And others concerned with the welfare of all Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing people in Alaska:

*Magdalena H. Mator*

*Jose L. Silva*

*Mary Cecilia Davis*

*Victor Martin*

*Eugene Edwin*

Technology Connection • Interpreter Referral • Independent Living

475 Hall Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4969

(907) 456-5913 voice — (907) 451-4889 TTY

Fax 476-2601 • 1-800-817-0020



April 29, 1997

To the House HESS Committee Members: Rep. Bunde; Chair,  
Rep. Brice, Rep. Dyson, Rep. Green, Rep. Kemplen, Rep. Porter  
and Rep. Vezey

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 19

Dear Sirs,

As the Program Director of the Alaska Center for Deaf Adults, I am writing this letter to support the intentions of the House Concurrent Resolution 19, and to encourage the House HESS Committee to recommend adoption of the resolution as written.

This resolution will officially recognize the Alaska Council of Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deafblind, established to meet the urgent needs of the deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind individuals in Alaska. The results of the resolution would be the ability to provide unity to the mentioned communities, as well as community organizations, by instituting a successful networking system.

The Alaska Council of Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deafblind is committed to providing a referral service center and a clearinghouse of information about the deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind at no cost to the state government. A successful networking system of services will provide effective service delivery statewide, and accurate information to develop policies and programs. Your actions toward the adoption of this resolution is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Alan Cartwright*  
Alan Cartwright  
Program Director, CDA

**AGENCY BUSINESS OFFICE**

731 Gambell, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3754  
(907) 276-3456 Voice  
(907) 258-2232 TTY  
(907) 279-0341 FAX

**CENTER FOR BLIND ADULTS**

3903 Taft Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99517-3069  
(907) 248-7770 Voice  
(907) 248-7517 FAX  
(800) 770-7517 AK

**CENTER FOR DEAF ADULTS**

731 Gambell, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3754  
(907) 276-3456 Voice  
(907) 258-2232 TTY  
(907) 279-0341 FAX  
(800) 770-3456 AK

**INTERPRETER REFERRAL LINE**

731 Gambell, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3754  
(907) 277-3323 Voice  
(907) 277-0735 TTY  
(907) 279-0341 FAX



TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR  
State of Alaska

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

P.O. Box 240249 • Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0249 • Phone: 907-269-8990 • Fax: 907-269-8995

April 28, 1997

Representative Con Bunde  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS 3100)  
Juneau, Alaska 99801 - 1182

Dear Representative Bunde:

SUBJECT: Support for HCR 19

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (Council) supports the passage of HCR 19. We are pleased that the State Legislature recognizes the concerns of Alaskans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Under state law, the Council has a responsibility to plan, evaluate, and promote services for people with developmental disabilities who are deaf. However, many people who are deaf or hard of hearing may not have a developmental disability.

Should HCR 19 pass, we will be pleased to work with the Alaska Council of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind (ACDHHDB) on matters of public policy that affect people who are deaf or hard of hearing. An organization such as the ACDHHDB that works to resolve differences among the leadership in the deaf community and that will continue to focus on strategies to meet the needs of people who are deaf can play an important role in public policy.

Quite frankly, we all know how important it is to gain efficiencies in state operations and improve cooperation among local organizations. However, the legislature must go beyond this resolution and support people who are deaf by adequately appropriating funds for the hearing services such as those provided by Medicaid, special education, or through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Again, thank you for recognizing a group of hard working Alaskans who attempt to work collaboratively to improve the lives of others. If you have any questions, please call the Council's Executive Director, David Maltman, at 907 269 8990.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Dodge*

Nancy Dodge  
Chairperson



April 30, 1997

Representative Con Bunde  
Hess Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear Representative Con Bunde:

I'm writing this letter in support of House resolution No. 19 which will be discussed on April 30th. I would like to support the resolution that you are planning to sponsor recognizing the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind Council, as a statewide Advisory Council.

As a service provider for the deaf and hard of hearing population here in Alaska, I have hands on experience with this disability and have a good understanding of the significance of having centralized representation for the group. Alaska has such a large expanse that it covers that services sometimes become fragmented in their delivery to those who need the services. The council will not only provide information on vital issues but will also represent the voice of the communities for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind citizens of our state.

This council is not asking for financial support from the state government. The council is only asking for the Alaska State Legislature to give recognition to the council as a centralized information and service referral center for issues affecting the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf/blind Alaskans.

As a concerned citizen of Alaska, I hope you will give this resolution serious consideration and adopt this resolution during this legislative session.

Thank you for your support.


Sincerely,

Laurie Goldman  
Interpreter Referral Coordinator  
Independent Living Specialist

Engineering Drafting & Detailing  
CAD Training Services  
James R. Burton  
1109 Hess Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3812



# Fax

**To:** Representative Tom Brice      **From:** James Burton 

---

**Fax:** 907-465-2937      **Pages:** 1

---

**Phone:** 907-465-3466      **Date:** April 30, 1997

---

**Re:** HCR 19      **CC:** Alaska State Independent Living Council

---

Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

♦ **ATTENTION:** Rep. Brice,

Thank you for your co-sponsorship of this very important resolution. The disabled community is in constant need to assert their place among society. Clear understanding of all citizens of Alaska of issues concerning the disabled is a must. Unfortunately some people do not feel the need to "understand" unless they are reminded by the government.

HCR 19 is in my opinion a very important piece of the puzzle to the overall commitment of our government in the support of the disabled of Alaska. As a disabled businessman, I'm feel that the disabled community has its part to play in describing the role of business in Alaska.

Please pass HCR 19!

Thanks again for your support.

Jim Burton

April 30, 1997

Representative Con Bunde  
House HF:SS Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK.99801

Dear Representative Con Bunde:

I'm writing this letter in support of House Concurrent Resolution 19, which will be discussed by the House HF:SS Committee on April 30<sup>th</sup>. I would like to support the resolution that you are currently sponsoring, recognizing the Alaska Council of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf/Blind, as a statewide organization.

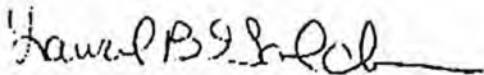
As a service provider for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf blind population here in Alaska, I have hands on experience with these disabilities and have a good understanding of the significance of having centralized representation. Alaska has such a large expanse that services sometimes become fragmented in their delivery to those most in need of services. The Council will not only provide information on vital issues, but will also represent a voice of the communities for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind citizens of our state.

The Council is not asking for financial support from the state government. The Council is only asking for the Alaska State Legislature to give recognition to the Council as a centralized information and service referral center for issues affecting the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind Alaskans.

As a concerned citizen of Alaska, I hope you will give this resolution serious consideration and adopt this resolution during this legislative session.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Laurie Goldman  
16475-A Lena Loop  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 4, 1997  
2921 Hogan Bay Circle  
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

Representative Tom Brice  
HESS Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Representative,

I want to support the resolution that you are planning to sponsor recognizing the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Council (ADC) as a statewide advisory council.

This council is of great significance for it will represent the voice of the communities for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind citizens of Alaska. The council will provide vital information concerning issues and statistics of this population.

I have a Masters Degree in Deaf Education and have worked in the field in Alaska since 1980. Throughout the years I have seen the great need for a collaborative effort and a state-wide advisory panel. The needs are great. We have not nearly approximated addressing the needs of individuals with these disabilities. An advisory council can begin work on the myriad of issues that face our state concerning the citizens in these three disability groups.

This council is of no expense to the state government being that agencies serving these individuals share the costs to operate the council. Thank you for working toward prompt adoption of this resolution.

Sincerely,

*Anna Mayra*  
Anna Mayra

Rep. Tom Brice  
HESS Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Representative,

I want to support the resolution that you are planning to sponsor recognizing the Alaska Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Council (ADC) as a statewide advisory council.

This council is of great significance to individuals like myself since it will represent the voice of the communities for the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Deaf-Blind citizens of Alaska. The council will provide vital information concerning issues and statistics of our population.

This council is of no expense to the state government being that agencies serving these individuals share the costs to operate the council. I am a concerned citizen living in the state of Alaska, one of many anticipating the prompt adoption of this resolution.

Thank you for your support.

*Anissa Haywood*

*Teacher - 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> grade*

*Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

*4420 E. 20<sup>th</sup> St.*

*Anchorage, AK 99508*

*337-2525*