

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1978

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

SJR 33

5



Relating to the Head Start program.

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

WHEREAS the Head Start program provides critically needed services, such as medical examinations, dental examinations, and a pre-school enrichment program to children throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare has the power to include children who would benefit from the program but whose families do not meet the low-income criteria; and

WHEREAS the Secretary has established a 10 per cent limitation on the number of these children who may enroll in any Head Start classroom; and

WHEREAS Alaska is the biggest state in the nation, with the highest cost of living (except for Hawaii) and the lowest population density, which creates a poverty of access unique to the state; and

WHEREAS in urban areas of the nation, middle and upper income families can purchase the services which are offered by Head Start to lower income families but in the rural areas of Alaska these alternative services are not available at all; and

WHEREAS the effect of the Secretary's decision is to deny children in rural areas of Alaska the early training essential to prepare them to become familiar with their own cultures as well as other cultures; and

WHEREAS Senate Bill 1919 would provide more flexibility for participation in Head Start and thus would deal more realistically with the needs of the pre-school children of the rural

communities of Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it wholeheartedly supports Senate Bill 1919 and urges the United States Congress to enact the bill at the earliest possible time.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph A. Califano, Jr., Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.