

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1984

Source

CSHCR 21(L&C)

Legislative  
Resolve No.

31



Requesting the Governor to designate March 11 - 16, 1984 as "Alaska Employ the Older Worker Week".

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

WHEREAS individuals aged 55 and over are a major national resource, constitute 22 percent of the population of the United States at the present time, and are likely to constitute a larger percentage of the population in future decades; and

WHEREAS a growing number of such individuals, being willing and able to work, are looking for employment opportunities, want to remain in the work force, or would like to serve their communities and their nation in voluntary roles; and

WHEREAS such individuals, who have made continuing contributions to the national welfare, should be encouraged to remain in, or resume, career and voluntary roles that utilize their strengths, wisdom, and skills; and

WHEREAS career opportunities reaffirm the dignity, self-worth, and independence of older individuals by encouraging them to make decisions and to act upon those decisions, by tapping their resources, experience, and knowledge, and by enabling them to contribute to society; and

WHEREAS the operation of title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 has demonstrated that older workers are extremely capable in a wide variety of job roles; and

WHEREAS recent studies conducted by the United States Department of Labor and the Work in America Institute indicate that in many cases employers prefer to retain older workers or rehire former older employees due to the high quality of their job performance and their low rate of absenteeism; and

WHEREAS the American Legion has sponsored a "National Employ the Older Worker Week" during the second full week of March in every year since 1959, focusing public attention on the advantages of employing older individuals;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is respectfully requested to designate the week of March 11 - 16, 1984, as "Alaska Employ the Older Worker Week"; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED the Governor is also requested to issue a proclamation calling upon

(1) the employers and labor unions of the state to give special consideration to older workers, with a view toward expanding career and employment opportunities for older workers who are willing and able to work and who desire to remain employed or to reenter the work force;

(2) voluntary organizations to reexamine the many fine service programs which they sponsor with a view toward expanding both the number of older volunteers and the types of service roles open to older workers;

(3) the Alaska Department of Labor to give special assistance to older workers by means of job training programs, job counseling, and additional support through older worker programs; and

(4) the people of Alaska to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.