

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

CSHCR 16 (HESS)

Legislative  
Resolve No.

120



Supporting the establishment of a program leading to a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Alaska.

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

WHEREAS there is a substantial need for a program leading to a Master of Social Work degree (MSW) in the state, as evidenced by the most recent assessment conducted by Dr. Diane Bernard, who was formerly with the Council of Social Work Education and is eminently qualified to conduct this type of assessment; and

WHEREAS, of the 18 agencies in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau that were contacted as part of the assessment, 16 indicated that there was an immediate need for state-trained master social workers to provide basic social work services, including rural, cross-cultural, mental health, and substance abuse services; and

WHEREAS social workers are specifically trained to address rural, cross-cultural, mental health, and substance abuse issues and are trained to bring resources in line with human needs; and

WHEREAS state agencies, particularly the division of mental health and developmental disabilities and the division of family and youth services in the Department of Health and Social Services, have expressed a desperate need for additional qualified social workers; and

WHEREAS, in a follow-up study of Bachelor of Social Work graduates from the University of Alaska, 60 percent wanted to pursue a MSW and would prefer to obtain that degree in the state; and

WHEREAS an advisory committee composed of representatives of the University of Alaska, the Department of Health and Social Services, Native organizations, students, private practitioners,

and state legislators was created to address the feasibility of a program leading to the MSW degree in the state, and that committee recommended the implementation of the program;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the addition of a program leading to the Master in Social Work degree to the University of Alaska and encourages the University of Alaska to initiate the development and implementation of that program as expeditiously as possible.