

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1996

Source
HJR 61

Legislative
Resolve No.
64



Opposing the proposed changes in the functions of the federal Office of Veterans Affairs in Anchorage.

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

WHEREAS, with roughly 73,000 veterans, Alaska ranks second among the states for its proportion of veterans and that proportion is increasing more than in any other state because of the downsizing of the state's military installations and the relocation of discharged military personnel within the state; and

WHEREAS the veterans in Alaska deserve to have personal access to and consultation with federal personnel when they file and process claims relating to their veteran status, including the claims of their families; and

WHEREAS the processing time for veterans' claims in the Anchorage office currently ranks sixth among 57 regional offices; and

WHEREAS that processing time and personal access would be disastrously affected by federal proposals to downsize the Anchorage office by moving the function of adjudicating compensation and pension matters to Reno, Nevada, and Phoenix, Arizona, which are thousands of miles away from where the Alaska veterans live;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly opposes federal proposals

to downsize the Anchorage office by shifting some of its functions to other states.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; Mr. Carroll Williams, Director, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Washington, D.C.; and Mr. Alonzo M. Poteet III, Director, Veterans Affairs and Medical Regional Office Center, Anchorage, Alaska.