

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the Senate, March 11, 1947.

Passed by the House, March 21, 1947.

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SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE  
JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 34

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

WHEREAS, the Territorial Government within all reasonable means is attempting to assimilate into its school system the great increase of children, now in need of schooling, without reference to race, creed, or color; and,

WHEREAS, the Legislature feels it is the responsibility of the Federal government for the education of Indian or children descended from the aboriginal groups, which responsibility is primary or at least equal to that of the Territory and yet there are now over 2000 children or 26% of the total Territorial enrollment in the Territorial schools who are eligible to enter the schools of the Alaska Native Service; and,

WHEREAS, it is reported that there are one thousand children who are now without school facilities in the regions of the lower Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers, the Arctic slope, and other remote areas; and,

WHEREAS, the trend of children eligible to enter schools maintained by the Alaska Native Service to enter the Territorial system of schools is accelerating due to the inevitable advance of modern civilization; and,

WHEREAS, there is also a large increase of children, by reason of the considerable increase of population due to the extensive

activities by the Federal government within the Territory of Alaska, and such increase of children is an added responsibility on the Territorial school system, all of which fully justifies this Territory in requesting that considerable financial help be given it, that the Territory shall be able to cope with the problem of maintaining present standards of education to say nothing about needed new schools; and,

WHEREAS, the costs of providing education have increased over the years and the Office of Indian Affairs is paying tuition to the State of California, Oregon and Washington, for children of Indian descent having one fourth or more Indian blood, who have real property with limited title not subject to tax; and,

WHEREAS, the transfer of native children to Territorial schools is increasing year by year until ultimately the Territory will have the majority of the native children in Territorial schools. This year several communities in Alaska whose schools are now operated by the Alaska Native Service have asked that their schools be taken over by the Territory. The Territorial School Board has rejected these applications until some agreement can be reached with the Federal Government concerning tuition for the native children; and,

WHEREAS, the Territorial Board of Education has made the following offer to the Alaska Native Service:

(a) To accept into the public schools native children as individuals or schools as rapidly as the Alaska Native Service desires to transfer them upon payment of \$100 per year per child or equivalent daily rate,

(b) The average per pupil cost for Alaska is about \$200 per child exclusive of capital outlays. This means that Alaska is offering to assume one-half the cost of Native children which is in essence offering to match Federal funds dollar for dollar,

and the Alaska Native Service placed in its budget this year an item of \$200,000.00 for payment of tuition to the Territory of Alaska but the item was immediately stricken by the United States Budget Bureau. The Territory cannot afford to extend its school services and facilities to accommodate an ever increasing number of children without some financial aid. If the plan for tuition offered by the Territory were adopted by the Federal Government, it would cost the Federal Government a maximum of \$100.00 per year per child or

about \$200,000.00 for the Native children at present enrolled in the Territorial schools. The ultimate cost to the Government would not exceed \$850,000.00 per year since there are about eighty-five hundred native children in the Territory of Alaska. The present cost to the Federal Government for schools in Alaska conducted by the Alaska Native Service is about two times \$850,000.00 per year; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has entered into a contract with the Department of Interior, Alaska Native Service, for the payment by the Federal Government for tuition for eligible Indian children, a sum not to exceed sixty cents per day for each day of school attended;

NOW, THEREFORE, your Memorialist prays that the Secretary of the Interior and the Delegate to Congress from Alaska favorably report to the Budget Bureau and to the Congress of the United States, the matter of extending to Alaska the present tuition system being used in continental United States, for the payment of tuition to Territorial schools for Indian and native children and that the Department of the Interior enter into a contract with the Territory of Alaska allowing to the Territory the sum of \$100.00 per year tuition for each eligible Indian child attending Territorial schools, thereby assisting the Territory of Alaska in fostering its policy of eliminating segregation and discrimination based on race.

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Passed by the Senate March 24, 1947.

Passed by the House March 25, 1947.