

S T A T E O F A L A S K A
THE LEGISLATURE

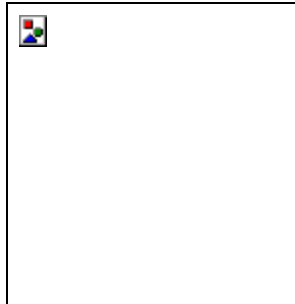
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**Legislative
Resolve No.**

32



Urging the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to extend the basic housing allowance exclusion to all military families for purposes of the school nutrition program.

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

WHEREAS all children need healthful meals for cognitive development, perception, thinking, and learning; and

WHEREAS studies show that malnutrition results in decreased activity levels, decreased social interaction, decreased curiosity, and decreased cognitive functioning in children; and

WHEREAS research shows that poorly nourished children have more problems fighting infections and, therefore, may become sick more often, miss more school, and fail to keep up with classmates; and

WHEREAS studies show that children who regularly eat breakfast have better standardized test scores and better behavior and are less hyperactive than children who do not have breakfast; and

WHEREAS eating a healthful lunch helps keep a child's mind sharp all afternoon;
and

WHEREAS children benefit from the federal nutrition programs that include the National School Lunch Program (42 U.S.C. 1751), the After School Snack Program (42 U.S.C. 1788), and the School Breakfast Program (42 U.S.C. 1773) that offer free or reduced price meals to eligible school age children whose household size and income are below the eligibility level established for those programs; and

WHEREAS the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act was amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(13)) to exclude a specified housing allowance from consideration as income in making an eligibility determination for federal school nutrition programs; and

WHEREAS the exclusion from income of a military housing allowance applies only to private housing located on-base; and

WHEREAS an income exclusion is not available for children of service members living in housing off-base that is part of the general commercial and private real estate market;
and

WHEREAS the basic housing allowance for off-base housing makes many military families ineligible for the federal school nutrition programs; and

WHEREAS, because service members are expected to be available 24 hours a day, they are unable to hold second jobs, and their income is limited to military income;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Western Region, and the United States Congress to extend the military housing allowance exclusion from income in establishing eligibility for school nutrition programs to all military families receiving a military housing allowance, whether they live on-base or off-base.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.