

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR ELLIS

Introduced: 1/23/03

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to children's environmental health.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the President of the United States and the United States Environmental
4 Protection Agency have placed an emphasis on protecting children's environmental health;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS** children are more vulnerable to substances in the environment because
7 they breathe more air, drink more fluids, and eat more food in proportion to body weight than
8 adults; and

9 **WHEREAS** children's small size, high metabolism, and close proximity to ground-
10 level make our youngest Alaskans the most vulnerable of our citizens to environmental toxins
11 and other dangers; and

12 **WHEREAS** good health early in life is crucial to good health throughout life, and the
13 state will realize great financial benefit through the improved health of its citizenry; and

14 **WHEREAS** four percent of children under six years of age have dangerously high
15 levels of lead in their blood leading to intelligence quotient deficits, learning disabilities,
16 behavioral problems, and nervous system disorders; and

1 **WHEREAS** 5,000,000 children and adolescents suffer from asthma, which is the
2 leading chronic illness in children and which causes 10,000,000 missed days of school a year
3 nationwide; children absorb greater concentrations of smoke and other air pollutants than do
4 adults, further aggravating the asthma symptoms of an estimated 1,000,000 children;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes Alaska's children as
6 our most important resource, whose health must be protected; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature intends to continue its support for
8 smoking cessation programs and encourages schools to help minimize asthma triggers
9 through improving the air quality in school facilities; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature supports the use of nontoxic products,
11 the use of integrated pest management practices, and the protection of children from products
12 dangerous to them; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature will seek ways to promote protection of
14 children from environmental harm through partnerships in business, voluntary organizations,
15 and programs to teach safer habits to children and their parents.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Shirley J. Holloway,
17 Commissioner, Department of Education and Early Development; and to the Honorable
18 Ernesta Ballard, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation.