

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI**

**Introduced: 2/3/12**

**Referred: State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to approve legislation allowing members of the**  
2 **military to receive promised retirement benefits.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Defense has been asked to identify  
5 \$487,000,000,000 in cuts from the defense budget during the next 10 years; and

6 **WHEREAS** a Pentagon-sponsored study recommended substantial changes to  
7 military pensions as part of the defense budget cuts; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Defense Business Board suggested a plan to convert military  
9 retirement from the current 20-year vesting system to a retirement system similar to a 401(k)  
10 arrangement under 26 U.S.C. 401(k) (Internal Revenue Code); and

11 **WHEREAS** the suggested plan might not grandfather current service members; and

12 **WHEREAS**, under the current military pension system, a military service member  
13 who serves for 20 years can retire with an immediate pension; and

14 **WHEREAS**, under a plan suggested by the Defense Business Board, a military  
15 service member would not receive pension payments until the member reaches 60 - 65 years  
16 of age; and

1           **WHEREAS** members of the armed forces of the United States should be allowed to  
2 maintain their current retirement plan as promised when the member signed up for military  
3 service; and

4           **WHEREAS** Congressman Don Young introduced in the 112th United States  
5 Congress H.R. 3520, the Keeping Our Promises Act of 2011; and

6           **WHEREAS** H.R. 3520 would allow a service member who signed up for military  
7 service under the current retirement plan to choose between staying with the current plan or  
8 moving to the new retirement system;

9           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the option that allows  
10 members of the armed forces of the United States to keep their promised 20-year retirement  
11 benefit; and be it

12           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
13 Congress to pass H.R. 3520, the Keeping Our Promises Act of 2011.

14           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
15 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and  
16 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of  
17 Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the  
18 Honorable Leon E. Panetta, United States Secretary of Defense; and the Honorable Lisa  
19 Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,  
20 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.