

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Ellis

Introduced: 1/23/13

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, 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, had it become law, would have allowed a service member
7 who signed up for military service under the current retirement plan to choose between
8 staying with the current plan or moving to the new retirement system;

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

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

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