

Presented by: The Manager  
Introduced: 04/06/98  
Drafted by: J.R. Corso

## **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**

**Serial No. 1925**

### **A Resolution in Support of Smart Start for Alaska's Children.**

WHEREAS, Alaskans share a common goal of safe, healthy children and strong families,  
and

WHEREAS, thousands of children in Alaska's working families do not have basic health  
care coverage, and

WHEREAS, Alaska has one of the worst rates of child abuse and neglect in the country,  
according to the Child Welfare League of America, and

WHEREAS, other states have combined expanded health care coverage and effective  
prevention programs to help reduce child abuse and neglect rates, and

WHEREAS, "Smart Start for Alaska's Children," an initiative announced by Governor  
Tony Knowles in his November 1997 State of the Child address, proposes to invest \$32  
million to expand health care coverage to 11,600 children and 800 pregnant women, to fund  
proven prevention programs that will help break the cycle of abuse and neglect, and to  
provide swift and forceful intervention to protect children in peril, and

WHEREAS, a change in the federal funding formula for Medicaid in Alaska has freed up  
\$31 million in state funds that can be added to \$1 million from the increased state tax on  
snuff and chewing tobacco, to give Alaska a unique opportunity to help its children, and

WHEREAS, "Smart Start for Alaska's Children" has been described by the state  
commissioner of Public Safety as one of the best crime prevention packages ever proposed  
in Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

**Section 1.** That the Assembly supports “Smart Start for Alaska’s Children” and urges state policymakers, including the administration and the legislature, to work together to help Alaskans reach our shared goal of safe, healthy children and strong families.

**Section 2.** The Clerk shall distribute copies of this resolution to the Juneau Legislative Delegation.

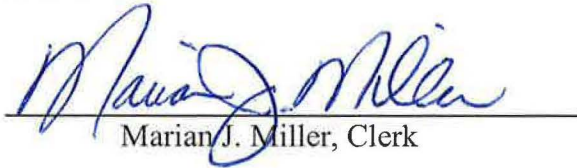
**Section 3. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1998.



John MacKinnon, Deputy Mayor

Attest:



Marian J. Miller, Clerk