## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

## IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

## THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

#### BY THE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 1/29/25

Referred: Labor and Commerce

# **A RESOLUTION**

- 1 Urging the United States Congress to safeguard the Universal Service Fund to ensure
- 2 continued funding for essential programs that support critical broadband and
- 3 telecommunication infrastructure and services for low-income rural residents of the
- 4 state.

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

- 6 WHEREAS the Universal Service Fund provides vital support to programs that fund
- 7 Internet and telephone services to support health care, education, consumer services, and
- 8 Lifeline telephone services in rural areas of the state; and
- 9 WHEREAS the programs the Universal Service Fund supports are essential for
- providing equitable access to educational, health care, and economic opportunities for
- 11 residents of the state; and
- 12 WHEREAS geographic and economic challenges in rural areas of the state make
- 13 funding from the Universal Service Fund vital for connectivity and fixed and mobile
- infrastructure development; and
- WHEREAS an interruption to Universal Service Fund funding would have

2	served by those entities; and
3	WHEREAS the Universal Service Fund provides essential support for connectivity
4	for residents of the state by providing more than \$500,000,000 annually in Universal Service
5	Fund funding; and
6	WHEREAS, if the Universal Service Fund terminates through inaction,
7	approximately 220 rural hospitals and health clinics would lose approximately \$221,000,000
8	in annual support; and
9	WHEREAS, if the Universal Service Fund ceases to exist, approximately 500 rural
10	schools would lose affordable broadband connection; and
11	WHEREAS, without Universal Service Fund funding, approximately 137,600 rural
12	students would lose access to communication services supported by schools and libraries; and
13	WHEREAS, if the Universal Service Fund ceases to exist, approximately 80 libraries
14	would lose affordable broadband connection; and
15	WHEREAS, if Universal Service Fund funding terminates, the state would lose
16	approximately \$167,000,000 to connect rural households to basic telephone services, mobile
17	telephone services, and broadband; and
18	WHEREAS lack of Universal Service Fund funding would result in approximately
19	19,000 residents of the state losing access to critical Lifeline-supported communications
20	services; and
21	WHEREAS losing Universal Service Fund funding would widen the connectivity gap
22	between state residents and the rest of the United States, further disadvantaging state residents
23	based on where they live;
24	BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Alaska
25	Congressional delegation and other members of the 119th United States Congress to
26	safeguard funding and the authority of the Universal Service Fund, including through
27	legislative measures if necessary to address legal concerns raised by judicial rulings; and be it
28	FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages bipartisan
29	cooperation to ensure the sustainability of Universal Service Fund programs and the benefits
30	those programs offer to residents of underserved, rural areas of the state.
31	COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President

devastating consequences for schools, libraries, health care providers, and the communities

1

- of the United States; the Honorable J. D. Vance, Vice President of the United States and
- 2 President of the U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan
- 3 Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the
- 4 Alaska delegation in Congress.