

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MERRICK, Edgmon, Patkotak

Introduced: 1/21/22

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass the Hearing Protection Act.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** art. I, sec. 19, Constitution of the State of Alaska, enshrines a right to
4 keep and bear arms, stating "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free
5 state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The individual right
6 to keep and bear arms shall not be denied or infringed by the State or a political subdivision of
7 the State."; and

8 **WHEREAS** the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) "supports the
9 use of firearm noise suppressors as a form of an engineering noise control to reduce hazardous
10 firearm noise exposures"; and

11 **WHEREAS** the NHCA asserts that "suppressors can be an important hearing
12 conservation tool in preventing [noise-induced hearing loss] in firearms users" and therefore
13 "supports passage of the Hearing Protection Act"; and

14 **WHEREAS** Ronald Turk, the former Associate Deputy Director of the federal Bureau
15 of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, stated in a 2017 white paper that "[g]iven the
16 lack of criminality associated with silencers, it is reasonable to conclude that they should not

1 be viewed as a threat to public safety necessitating [National Firearms Act] classification, and
2 should be considered for reclassification under the [Gun Control Act]"; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, hunting and wildlife viewing generated \$4,100,000,000 in
4 economic activity in the state; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in fiscal year 2020, the state received nearly \$44,000,000 in grants for
6 wildlife and sportfish restoration projects from excise tax revenue under the Pittman-
7 Robertson Act; and

8 **WHEREAS**, under the Hearing Protection Act, reclassification of suppressors under
9 the Gun Control Act would lead to one of the largest increases in excise tax revenue under the
10 Pittman-Robertson Act in decades, which would lead directly to increased funding for wildlife
11 conservation efforts in the state; and

12 **WHEREAS** the manufacture of suppressors in the state constitutes a viable economic
13 development opportunity, for even remote communities; and

14 **WHEREAS** United States Representative Don Young has been a cosponsor of the
15 Hearing Protection Act since 2017; and

16 **WHEREAS** United States Senator Dan Sullivan has been a cosponsor of the Hearing
17 Protection Act since 2019;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
19 Congress to immediately pass and implement the Hearing Protection Act.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
21 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
22 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.