

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER

Introduced: 2/18/21

Referred: Judiciary, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Encouraging Congress to enact legislation allowing people over 18 years of age to**
2 **purchase handguns.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the right to bear arms is established and protected in the Second
5 Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

6 **WHEREAS**, under federal law and the laws of this state, an individual who is 18
7 years of age or older may purchase a rifle, long gun, or shotgun from a federally licensed
8 firearms dealer; and

9 **WHEREAS**, under federal law, an individual must be 21 years of age or older to
10 purchase a handgun from a federally licensed firearms dealer; and

11 **WHEREAS**, under federal law, an individual who is 18 to 20 years of age may
12 purchase a handgun from a private seller who is not a federally licensed dealer; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in this state, an individual who is 16 years of age or older may possess a
14 firearm in any place except as expressly prohibited by law, such as in or near a K-12 school or
15 where intoxicating liquor is sold for consumption on the premises; and

16 **WHEREAS** handguns are commonly used in protection of self, home, and vehicle

1 and, in many situations, are more practical to use than rifles or shotguns; and

2 **WHEREAS** handguns are often used for protection against wildlife and, in many
3 situations, are more practical to carry than rifles or shotguns; and

4 **WHEREAS** most mass shootings in the United States are committed by individuals
5 with rifles that anyone 18 years of age or older may legally purchase from a federally licensed
6 firearms dealer; and

7 **WHEREAS** the federal law that prohibits federally licensed firearms dealers from
8 selling handguns to people under 21 years of age impairs the ability of people who are 18 to
9 20 years of age to protect themselves, including in the event of a mass shooting;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature considers handguns to be a
11 useful means of self-protection; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
13 Congress to pass legislation to allow an individual who meets existing federal requirements
14 for purchasing a rifle, long gun, or shotgun and who is 18 years of age or older to purchase a
15 handgun from a federally licensed firearms dealer.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
17 of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States and
18 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jeff Rosen, Acting Attorney General of the
19 United States; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators,
20 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in
21 Congress.