



ANB – ANS  
JUNEAU, ALASKA – September 2015

**Resolution #15-11**

**Title: Preschool Expansion in Alaska**

WHEREAS, children learn through experience, play, and lessons as they develop their physical, linguistic, social, emotional, and cognitive skills, even before they are 6 years old; and

WHEREAS, “High-quality, accessible preschool is one of the critical elements in preparing young children to succeed in school,” according to Best Beginnings Executive Director Abbe Hensley; and

WHEREAS, forty other states in the USA run state-funded public preschool programs; and

WHEREAS, in Alaska only 22% of 4-year-olds are served by Head Start, State Pre-K, or a Special Education program while the national average is 44%; and

WHEREAS, young children can develop social and emotional skills (how to compromise, how to show respect for others, how to work with adults), build confidence, improve their motor skills, exercise their imaginations, and learn basic academic concepts at preschool; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies have shown benefits from attending preschool that include high levels of education attained, higher rates of high school graduation, and more and better paid employment for those who attended preschool, and less remedial education required as well as a reduction in arrests and punishment for crimes which benefits the society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, preschools with opportunities for culturally relevant art, stories, and songs help children be ready to excel in grade school and beyond;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ANS Camp 2 and the ANB & ANS Camp 70, assembled in a joint meeting in September 2015, request that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood in Grand Camp assembled in October 2015, the Centennial Year of the ANS, urge our legislators and governor to maintain and increase funding for preschool programs, such as Head Start, Pre-K, Parents as Teachers, and Best Beginnings for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

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