

# Alaska State Legislature

*Session:*  
State Capitol, Rm 516  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-2095  
Fax: (907) 465-3810



*Interim:*  
716 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-0240  
Fax: (907) 269-0242

## Senator Loren Leman District G

**For Immediate Release: Feb. 8, 2001**  
**Contact: Senator Loren Leman, (907) 465-2095**

## **Senate Supports Equity for Married Couples**

(JUNEAU) – The Senate unanimously passed a resolution on Thursday calling for elimination of the marriage tax penalty.

Senate Joint Resolution 12, sponsored by Senator Loren Leman (R-Anchorage), urges Congress to correct the imbalance in the federal tax code that taxes married couples more than unmarried people. According to the Congressional Budget Office, married couples pay an average of \$1,480 more in taxes each year than if they were living together and filing individual returns. This marriage penalty affects 67,000 Alaskans.

Last year Congress recognized this inequity. However, President Clinton vetoed legislation to fix it.

“Our tax code should be fair,” said Leman. “Adding a tax burden to couples just because they are married isn’t right.”

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**Excerpts from Sen. Leman’s speech on the Senate floor are on the Majority Actuality Line, 800-478-6540.**