SENATE CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/29/06
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SEATON, Salmon, Kapsner

A RESOLUTION

Relating to support of community water fluoridation.

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

WHEREAS fluoridation was listed in 1999 by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS United States Surgeon General Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona stated that "I join previous Surgeon Generals in acknowledging the continuing public health role for community water fluoridation in enhancing the oral health of all Americans"; and

WHEREAS fluoridation is the precise adjustment of the existing naturally occurring fluoride level in drinking water to an optimal level that has been determined to be ideal for the prevention of dental cavities in children and adults; and

WHEREAS dental decay can be largely prevented through a health routine that includes good oral hygiene, diet, and fluoride; and

WHEREAS dental decay can lead to complications such as abscessed teeth and is linked to such serious health conditions as premature delivery of infants, heart disease, lung disease, and low birth weight babies; and
WHEREAS 45 percent of Alaskans do not have access to optimally fluoridated water; and

WHEREAS 100 percent of Alaska cities with a population greater than 30,000 have access to fluoridated water; and

WHEREAS an independent study by the United States Department of Health and Human Services showed that Alaska Native children have three to four times more tooth decay than the national average; and

WHEREAS 69 recognized health and other organizations in the United States recognize community water fluoridation as an effective and safe method of reducing dental caries; and

WHEREAS dental disease leads to higher insurance premiums, higher business costs, and lost time at work and at school; and

WHEREAS Alaska is bearing the burden of higher Medicaid costs from nonfluoridated communities;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the benefits of community water fluoridation are recognized; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that all new public water systems incorporate engineering designed to facilitate incorporation of fluoridation at such time as the community so desires; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that all communities in Alaska are urged to offer their citizens the benefits of optimally fluoridated water.