SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR MCGUIRE

Introduced: 2/21/12
Referred: Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1   **Designating March 2012 as Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month.**

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

3   **WHEREAS** congenital cytomegalovirus is the most common congenital infection in

4   the United States; and

5   **WHEREAS** one child in 150 children is born with congenital cytomegalovirus; and

6   **WHEREAS** contraction of congenital cytomegalovirus at birth can lead to permanent

7   health conditions, including hearing and vision loss, mental disability, seizures, and, in rare

8   cases, death; and

9   **WHEREAS** congenital cytomegalovirus is most dangerous for unborn babies whose

10   mothers become infected with the disease during pregnancy and children or adults whose

11   immune systems have been weakened by disease or drug treatment; and

12   **WHEREAS**, because pregnant women are the number one population at risk, the

13   American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Centers for Disease Control

14   and Prevention recommend that obstetricians and gynecologists counsel women on basic

15   prevention measures to guard against congenital cytomegalovirus infection; and

16   **WHEREAS** congenital cytomegalovirus is preventable with behavioral interventions,

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1 such as frequent hand washing with soap and water after contact with diapers or oral

2 secretions, not kissing young children on the mouth, and not sharing food, towels, or utensils

3 with young children; and

4 **WHEREAS** congenital cytomegalovirus is transmitted through bodily fluids,

5 including urine, saliva, blood, mucus, and tears; and

6 **WHEREAS** the incidence of children born with congenital cytomegalovirus can be

7 greatly reduced with public education and awareness;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature designates March 2012 as

9 Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month.