

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1(HSS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/11/11

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES PETERSEN, Thompson, Herron, Millett, Kerttula

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming November 2011 to be Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** an estimated 43,140 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in
4 the United States in 2010, and an estimated 36,800 of those will die from the disease; and

5 **WHEREAS**, as the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States,
6 pancreatic cancer ranks as one of the nation's deadliest cancers; and

7 **WHEREAS**, by the time symptoms of pancreatic cancer first appear, it is usually too
8 late for an optimistic prognosis; and

9 **WHEREAS** 75 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within a year after diagnosis,
10 and 94 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within five years after diagnosis; and

11 **WHEREAS** the incidence of pancreatic cancer is approximately 50 percent higher in
12 African-Americans than in other ethnic groups; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics reported 158 deaths from pancreatic
14 cancer in Alaska during the period 2006 - 2008; and

15 **WHEREAS** a cure for pancreatic cancer has not yet been found, and survival rates
16 have not improved substantially in the last 40 years; and

1 **WHEREAS** smoking, obesity, family history of the disease, and diabetes are the
2 leading known risk factors for pancreatic cancer; and

3 **WHEREAS** the federal government invests significantly less money in pancreatic
4 cancer research than it does in research on other forms of cancer that rank among the leading
5 causes of death by cancer; and

6 **WHEREAS** pancreatic cancer research funding constitutes only two percent of the
7 National Cancer Institute's federal research funding--an amount far too low, given the severity
8 of the disease, the mortality rate, and how little is known about how to arrest the disease; and

9 **WHEREAS** the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, as the first and only national
10 patient advocacy organization to serve the pancreatic cancer community in the state and
11 nationwide, focuses its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, and public
12 awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and finding a cure for
13 pancreatic cancer; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, including its affiliates in the
15 state, supports patients who are battling pancreatic cancer, honors those who have lost their
16 lives to the disease, and continues to pursue its commitment to finding and developing a cure
17 for pancreatic cancer; and

18 **WHEREAS** expanded research into locating the disease's causes, enhancing early
19 detection, and developing effective treatments will increase awareness of and knowledge
20 about pancreatic cancer among Alaskans and directly enhance the good health and well-being
21 of the state's residents;

22 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims November 2011 to be
23 Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.