

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KOTT

Introduced: 3/18/97

Referred: Labor and Commerce

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the United States Congress to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and
2 Cosmetic Act.

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

4 WHEREAS improving patient access to quality health care is a paramount national
5 goal; and

6 WHEREAS the key to improved health care, especially for persons with serious unmet
7 medical needs, is the rapid approval of safe and effective new drugs, biological products, and
8 medical devices; and

9 WHEREAS minimizing the delay between discovery and eventual approval of a new
10 drug, biological product, or medical device derived from research conducted by innovative
11 pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies could improve the lives of millions of United
12 States citizens; and

13 WHEREAS current limitations on the dissemination of information about
14 pharmaceutical products reduce the availability of information to physicians, other health care
15 professionals, and patients and unfairly limit the right of free speech guaranteed by the First
16 Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

1 **WHEREAS** the current rules and practices governing the review of new drugs,
2 biological products, and medical devices by the United States Food and Drug Administration
3 can delay approvals and are unnecessarily expensive;

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Congress
5 of the United States to address the important issues described above by enacting
6 comprehensive legislation to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301
7 - 395) to facilitate the rapid review and approval of innovative new drugs, biological products,
8 and medical devices, without compromising patient safety or product effectiveness.

9 **COPIES** of this resolution, properly certified, shall be sent to the Honorable Bill
10 Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the
11 United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of
12 the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
13 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
14 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.