

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON  
SENATE DISTRICT G

## **Sponsor Statement: Senate Joint Resolution 16**

### **Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act**

Senate Joint Resolution 16 is a call to action urging the United States Congress to pass the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act. This critical legislation seeks to ensure that individuals born with congenital anomalies, such as cleft lip, cleft palate, and other conditions, receive the medically necessary treatment they need without facing arbitrary insurance limitations.

Many families in Alaska and across the nation struggle with the financial burden of essential medical and dental procedures required for congenital conditions. The Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act would mandate that private health insurance plans cover these necessary treatments, including surgeries, therapies, and ongoing care, without imposing lifetime or annual coverage limits. Currently, many medically necessary dental procedures are not covered adequately if at all, placing a great financial burden on families across the state and country.

By passing SJR 16, the Alaska State Legislature stands in support of families affected by congenital anomalies and urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation to champion this vital legislation. Access to necessary medical and dental care should not be a privilege but a right for all individuals, ensuring that no family must choose between financial stability and essential healthcare.