

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SPONSOR STATEMENT Senate Concurrent Resolution 18

“Proclaiming November 2018 as Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month.”

Senate Concurrent Resolution 18 aims to create awareness for diabetic retinopathy, a disease which results from both type one and type two diabetes. Diabetes is an epidemic in Alaska and the United States. Approximately 29 million Americans age 20 and older have diabetes, and diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in those aged 20 to 74. Awareness is essential in preventing this costly disease.

Among the people living with type one and type two diabetes, 30 percent are affected by diabetic retinopathy. It is the most common eye disease, and often has no early symptoms. Creating recognition for diabetic eye diseases will encourage those living with diabetes to get regular eye exams. Yearly eye exams are vital in preventing and treating diabetic retinopathy. With the rising costs of healthcare, prevention is imperative in keeping these costs down.

Proclaiming November 2018 as Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month will motivate and encourage those living with diabetes to seek treatment and prevent Alaskans from suffering this terrible disease.