



Alaska State Legislature

1971

Source:

HJR 39

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

Relating to comprehensive health services in the Norton Sound area.

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

WHEREAS the continued availability of the present services at Maynard McDougall Memorial Hospital in Nome, Alaska are vital to the elevation of the health status of the residents of the Norton Sound area; and

WHEREAS Maynard McDougall Memorial Hospital constitutes the only voluntary, community-controlled base for a regional health delivery system in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS the present contract between Maynard McDougall Memorial Hospital and the Alaska Native Health Service does not facilitate long-range planning for or financing of personnel and maintenance needs; and

WHEREAS a prepayment contract would enable other potential contractors for care to supplement Alaska Native Health Service reimbursement; and

WHEREAS prepayment provides incentives to emphasize preventive care and economize on expensive health resources; and

WHEREAS prepayment would eliminate the economic factor from the physician's decision on a treatment plan for each patient; and

WHEREAS prepayment would stabilize the fiscal condition of Maynard McDougall Memorial Hospital and allow it to plan effectively for the future; and

WHEREAS a prepaid program would serve as valuable experience for development of a state health insurance program or participation in a national program;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the United States Public Health Service is requested to investigate the feasibility of establishing and supporting a prepayment program to provide comprehensive health services to the residents of the Norton Sound area.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to Doctor Emery Johnson, Director, Bureau of Indian Health, U. S. Public Health Service; Doctor John Lee, Area Director, Indian Health Service, U. S. Public Health Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.