



Alaska State Legislature

1971

Source:

HJR 65

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 65

Relating to dental care in the rural areas of Alaska.

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

WHEREAS one of the greatest needs of the citizens of rural Alaska is adequate dental care; and

WHEREAS, in order to encourage the practice of dentistry in rural areas, the state permits dentists to practice in areas that are 100 miles or more from a resident licensed dentist; and

WHEREAS in the rural areas of Alaska there is not a large enough population to support a private practitioner; and

WHEREAS both the residents of any given community and the dentist involved would greatly benefit if the United States Public Health Service would contract with those dentists living in rural areas to service those United States beneficiaries who reside in the area of the dentist's practice; and

WHEREAS, if this were done, it would free Public Health Service personnel to concentrate their efforts in the rural areas that currently receive no dental aid in any way; and

WHEREAS in certain areas the United States Public Health Service is now planning to send their personnel into areas where practicing dentists are already in residence and this is due to a lack of funds in the Public Health Service budget for contractual services;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the United

States Public Health Service is urgently requested to immediately seek adequate funding for contractual services so that it may contract with private persons to service United States beneficiaries in the area of a private practitioner's residence, and to redirect their dental care services to those areas of the state that are totally lacking in dental services at this time; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is urgently requested to provide increased and adequate funding for all areas of concern to the United States Public Health Service, and especially the allotment of increased contractual funds for dental services.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Elliott Richardson, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; 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.