

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6 am**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY SENATORS PEARCE, Ellis**

**REPRESENTATIVE Kemplen**

**Amended: 3/26/97**

**Introduced: 3/7/97**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to the Alaska Telemedicine Project.**

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

**3 WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project, founded by the University of Alaska,  
**4 Anchorage, Providence Health Systems in Alaska, and AT&T Alascom, is a private/public**  
**5 consortium of over 34 telecommunications carriers and health care organizations, including**  
**6 Native health corporations, dedicated to using telecommunications and information technology**  
**7 to improve the delivery of health care to all Alaskans; and**

**8 WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project is beginning its fourth year of operations;  
**9 and**

**10 WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has predicated its existence on the idea  
**11 that "our" health care dollars must be used wisely, and that advances in telecommunications**  
**12 and information technology offer the promise of health care system re-engineering that can**  
**13 both contain costs of health care and improve the quality of health care for all Alaskans; and**

**14 WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has performed planning for narrow  
**15 bandwidth telemedicine and telehealth applications that has been predicated on current and**  
**16 planned end user telecommunications and information technology systems in Alaska; and**

**17 WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has been dedicated to assessing the needs

1 of all health care organizations in the state, demonstrating appropriate telemedicine and  
2 telehealth technologies and applications scaled to Alaska's current and planned infrastructure,  
3 and evaluating these demonstration projects for cost and benefit, satisfaction, and use; and

4       **WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has developed an evaluation method,  
5 sanctioned by the National Library of Medicine, designed to reveal cost and benefits,  
6 satisfaction, and use of telemedicine and telehealth applications and technologies scaled to  
7 Alaska's current and planned telecommunications and information technology infrastructure;  
8 and

9       **WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has established a nonprofit Alaska  
10 TeleHealth Network for e-mail, digital imagery, and continuing medical and health care  
11 information and education throughout the state; and

12       **WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has been recognized by the government  
13 of Romania, the National Library of Medicine, and the United States Department of  
14 Commerce as a model for telemedicine and telehealth applications and technologies in rural  
15 America and developing nations; and

16       **WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project has performed all these accomplishments  
17 without new, dedicated funding from the state;

18       **WHEREAS** the Alaska Telemedicine Project will not preclude other entities within  
19 the state from applying for funding for technology, but support them in their efforts to develop  
20 partnerships to secure funding and expertise in the telemedicine field;

21       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature recognizes the Alaska  
22 Telemedicine Project, its founding organizations, and its leadership as the officially sanctioned  
23 telemedicine and telehealth project in the State of Alaska.