

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 1/18/02

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the development of adequate in-state treatment capacity for severely**
2 **disturbed children.**

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

4 **WHEREAS**, on October 1, 2001, Alaska's Medicaid program funded over 300
5 severely emotionally disturbed Alaska children placed in out-of-state residential treatment
6 facilities by the Department of Health and Social Services or private parties;

7 **WHEREAS** the total number of all types of licensed child residential beds in Alaska
8 is approximately 561, and only 108 of these beds provide the same level of treatment received
9 by severely emotionally disturbed children in out-of-state placements; and

10 **WHEREAS** the lack of in-state residential treatment beds clearly contributes to the
11 number of out-of-state placements; and

12 **WHEREAS** residential treatment beds are a critical component in the continuum of
13 treatment and care for severely emotionally disturbed children; and

14 **WHEREAS** providing residential treatment in Alaska allows for increased
15 involvement of a child's family in the child's treatment, thereby improving the quality of care
16 and leading to better outcomes and long-term success; and

1 **WHEREAS** subsequent placement in foster care, referral for other treatment, and
2 reintegration of the child back into Alaska communities can be more easily and quickly
3 achieved when a child is discharged from an in-state residential treatment facility; and

4 **WHEREAS** development of residential treatment facilities in Alaska will create local
5 construction and institutional jobs;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
7 governor to direct the Department of Health and Social Services to work in conjunction with
8 the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and other
9 interested parties to strengthen the full continuum of residential and community-based care in
10 Alaska for the treatment of severely emotionally disturbed children; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
12 governor to encourage the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental
13 Health Board, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and other interested parties to
14 establish as a priority the development of sufficient in-state residential care to serve severely
15 emotionally disturbed children who would otherwise be placed in out-of-state facilities.