

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 5/5/04

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the Department of Health and Social Services to immediately adopt regulations**
2 **to aggressively contain the costs of personal care services in the medical assistance**
3 **program.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the medical assistance program under AS 47.07 administered by the
6 Department of Health and Social Services constitutes more than 10 percent of the state budget
7 and this program provides payment for eligible persons for certain personal care services; and

8 **WHEREAS** the recent growth of the medical assistance program is greater than 15
9 percent a year and the growth has caused great concern for the legislature, resulting in the
10 authorization of cost containment measures in AS 47.07.036 in 2003; and

11 **WHEREAS** expenditures for personal care services are projected to increase at an
12 even greater rate of over 65 percent in fiscal year 2004 alone; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Department of Health and Social Services is required to increase
14 fiscal accountability and expenditures for the public assistance program by conducting audits
15 and undertaking other cost containment measures;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Department of Health
2 and Social Services to immediately adopt regulations to aggressively contain the costs of
3 personal care services in the medical assistance program under AS 47.07; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commissioner of health and social services is
5 requested to submit a report to the governor and to the legislature on the commissioner's
6 actions under this resolution not later than January 14, 2005.

7 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
8 Governor; and to the Honorable Joel Gilbertson, Commissioner, Department of Health and
9 Social Services.