

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES CISSNA, Kerttula

Introduced: 2/13/06

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Labor and Commerce

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to an integrated statewide information and referral system.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** basic and accurate information is a fundamental requirement for the
4 state's market system to work efficiently; and

5 **WHEREAS** consumers of health care in the state have difficulty determining the
6 actual costs of medical services, which is critical to making informed market decisions for
7 health-related expenditures; and

8 **WHEREAS** residents of the state must have information about the quality and variety
9 of services available in the broad category of health care to make informed medical and
10 health-related purchasing decisions; and

11 **WHEREAS** a growing number of Alaskans can not afford or access health insurance;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** people who are over 65 years of age and are covered by Medicare find
14 fewer doctors who will keep or accept them as patients; and

15 **WHEREAS** health care options in the state are diminished because of high health care
16 costs and the unavailability of surgical procedures; and

1 **WHEREAS** the state already has a shortage of physicians and the percentage of
2 medical doctors over 50 years of age is increasing, creating a trend that will worsen as the
3 state's population continues to age; and

4 **WHEREAS** state residents need an integrated health-related information and referral
5 system to connect with services that are available and that will best meet each resident's
6 health care needs;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature seeks government and private
8 sector partners to investigate and build an integrated statewide information and referral
9 system using like systems created in other states that use state-of-the-art software and well-
10 maintained databases so state residents can maximize their health purchases within the state;
11 and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that in addition, this integrated statewide information and
13 referral system be used to create an information system for health volunteerism options and a
14 network of community health contacts that in times of natural disasters or statewide
15 emergencies could be used to coordinate services and to disseminate information.