

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

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, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to home health services for older Alaskans and adults with disabilities.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the state has the second largest growth rate in the nation of persons over
4 65 years of age residing in the state; and

5 **WHEREAS** the state has a large number of persons with disabilities waiting for
6 available services; and

7 **WHEREAS**, according to research conducted by the Alaska State Legislature
8 research services, home health service is far more cost-effective than more restrictive choices;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** the state has been a leader in the nation in creating a system of least
11 restrictive care for persons with disabilities; and

12 **WHEREAS** facilitation of home health services for older Alaskans and persons with
13 disabilities allows those persons the option of remaining at home as long as possible and
14 increases their important role in family and community; and

15 **WHEREAS** many families who care for older Alaskans and persons with disabilities
16 while maintaining employment and other family responsibilities are subject to burnout or

1 failure in caregiver roles caused by unrelieved stress; and

2 **WHEREAS**, by expanding more cost-effective home health services, including
3 nonmedical care, supervision, or socialization, and fulfilling goals identified in a therapeutic
4 care plan under the home and community base waiver program, older Alaskans and adults
5 with disabilities will maximize the potential to stay at home for as long as possible;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature promotes the expansion of
7 home health services to older Alaskans and adults with disabilities by requesting that the
8 governor direct the Department of Health and Social Services to apply to the federal
9 government in the next fiscal year during reauthorization of the state's medical assistance
10 program for additional waivers under the home and community based waiver program to
11 better serve older Alaskans and adults with disabilities through a federally reimbursable
12 service either as a separate service or as a service that may be combined with other waivers;
13 and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
15 governor to direct the Department of Health and Social Services to make available expanded
16 home health services, subject to other federal and state limits, as part of a recipient's approved
17 plan of care to allow a primary caregiver to work, to allow a primary caregiver to sleep during
18 normal nighttime hours if the recipient of care cannot be safely left unsupervised during the
19 caregiver's sleep hours, and to allow supervision or monitoring of a recipient who is not
20 otherwise safe while sleeping.