

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES CISSNA, Gruenberg, Kerttula, Moses

Introduced: 2/6/06

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

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to public health and a prevention compact.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** this state continues to lead the nation in negative health indicators,
4 including tobacco use and alcohol abuse; and

5 **WHEREAS** state residents continue to rank poorly in rates of obesity and lack of
6 physical activity compared to other states, and these negative indicators can lead to long-term
7 illnesses, such as heart disease, diabetes, and other diseases that require costly and ongoing
8 health care; and

9 **WHEREAS** the state ranks second in the nation in per capita public health costs;
10 every layer of government in the state spent over \$1,000,000,000 on health-related costs in
11 2005, and, despite these substantial expenditures on health care, the state still has a low
12 ranking in the overall health of its population; and

13 **WHEREAS**, under the current system, the state's health care costs continue to rise,
14 often resulting in lower expenditures for standard preventative health measures; and

15 **WHEREAS** the state must develop a health care strategy that provides opportunities
16 to advance the quality and accessibility of health care so that the overall health of state

1 residents will be improved; and

2 **WHEREAS** the state has a high rate of uninsured residents who often cannot afford
3 preventative health care programs or medical assistance when sick, and these behavioral
4 patterns can result in a higher incidence of long-term illness that often leads to catastrophic
5 levels of debt; and

6 **WHEREAS** the high number of uninsured residents in the state translates into poor
7 physical and financial health; and

8 **WHEREAS** medical training in the state for health care providers is not sufficiently
9 funded to produce qualified health care workers to occupy the many unfilled health care
10 professional positions statewide; as a result, medical practitioners and health care workers are
11 recruited from outside of the state to fill these positions, thus depriving the state's present and
12 future health care workers of good careers and well-paying jobs; and

13 **WHEREAS** there is an increasing need for translators who can communicate with
14 patients for whom English is a second language, and the lack of qualified translators creates
15 barriers to receiving adequate medical treatment;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature invites state departments, all
17 local governments, private and nonprofit businesses, and individuals to join in forming the
18 Alaska 2007 Prevention Compact; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that each compact member may voluntarily craft and
20 promote the member's own health preventative or curative initiative in the arena of the
21 member's unique experience or interest, that the compact member's plans and efforts will be
22 reported as voluntary presentations by private and public media and Internet websites, and
23 that the method and content of the initiatives, as well as the method of promotion, will be at
24 the discretion of each individual member.

25 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable William Noll,
26 Commissioner, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; the
27 Honorable Marc Antrim, Commissioner, Department of Corrections; the Honorable Roger
28 Sampson, Commissioner, Department of Education and Early Development; the Honorable
29 Karleen Jackson, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services; the Honorable
30 William Tandeske, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety; the Honorable Mark R.
31 Hamilton, President, University of Alaska; Richard I. Mauer, Chair, State Board of Education

1 and Early Development; Elaine P. Maimon, Chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage;
2 Steve Jones, Chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks; John R. Pugh, Chancellor,
3 University of Alaska Southeast; Douglas North, President, Alaska Pacific University;
4 Stephanie Wheeler, Executive Director, Alaska Office of Faith-based Initiatives; Brenda
5 Moore, Alaska Office of Faith-based Initiatives; the Honorable Stanley Mack, Mayor of the
6 Aleutians East Borough; the Honorable Mark Begich, Mayor of the Municipality of
7 Anchorage; the Honorable Michael Swain, Sr., Mayor of the Bristol Bay Borough; the
8 Honorable David Talerico, Mayor of the Denali Borough; the Honorable Jim Whitaker,
9 Mayor of the Fairbanks North Star Borough; the Honorable Fred Shields, Mayor of the
10 Haines Borough; the Honorable Bruce Botelho, Mayor of the City and Borough of Juneau; the
11 Honorable John Williams, Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough; the Honorable Joe
12 Williams, Mayor of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough; the Honorable Jerome Selby, Mayor of
13 the Kodiak Island Borough; the Honorable Glen Alsworth, Sr., Mayor of the Lake and
14 Peninsula Borough; the Honorable Timothy Anderson, Mayor of the Matanuska-Susitna
15 Borough; the Honorable Edward Itta Sr., Mayor of the North Slope Borough; the Honorable
16 Roswell Schaeffer, Sr., Mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough; the Honorable Marko
17 Dapceвич, Mayor of the City and Borough of Sitka; the Honorable Dave Stone, Mayor of the
18 City and Borough of Yakutat; Paul Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, Alaska Native Tribal
19 Health Consortium; Carolyn Crowder, Health Director, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association;
20 Eben Hopson, Jr., Executive Director, Arctic Slope Native Association; Robert J. Clark,
21 President and Chief Executive Officer, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation; Patrick M.
22 Anderson, Executive Director, Chugachmiut; Julie Bator, Health Director, Copper River
23 Native Association; Lona Marioneax-Ibanitoru, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments;
24 Chris Devlin, Executive Director, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc.; Karen Bachman-Carter,
25 Health Administrator, Ketchikan Indian Community; Wendy Tisland, Health Director,
26 Kodiak Area Native Association; Helen Bolen, President, Maniilaq Association; Rachel
27 Askren, Metlakatla Indian Country; Wilson Justin, Executive Vice-President and Health
28 Director, Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium; Violet Rice, Health Director, Native Village of
29 Eklutna; Casandra Trenton, Health Director, Native Village of Tyonek; Sarah Stokes, Health
30 Director, Ninilchik Village Traditional Council; Joe Cladouhos, President and Chief
31 Executive Officer, Norton Sound Health Corporation; Crystal Collier, Executive Director,

1 Seldovia Village Tribe; Ileen Sylvester, Vice-President, Executive and Tribal Services,
2 Southcentral Foundation; Ken Brewer, Health Director, Southeast Alaska Regional Health
3 Consortium; Josephine A. Huntington, Health Director, Tanana Chiefs Conference; Gene
4 Peltola, President and Chief Executive Officer, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation;
5 Benna Hughey, IHS Health Program Director, Valdez Native Tribe; David Talerico,
6 President, Alaska Municipal League; Tim Bourcy, First Vice-President, Alaska Municipal
7 League; Tim Beck, Second Vice-President, Alaska Municipal League; Joan Fisher, President,
8 Alaska Primary Care Association, Inc.; Marilyn Kasmar, Executive Director, Alaska Primary
9 Care Association, Inc.; Rod Betit, President, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home
10 Association; Linda Fink, Vice-President, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home
11 Association; Brian Saylor, President, Alaska Public Health Association; Don Smith,
12 President, Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants; Ashley Marquardt, President-Elect,
13 Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants; Cathy Giessel, Alaska Nurse Practitioner
14 Association; Michael Ford, Legislative Liaison, Alaska Native Health Board; and the
15 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
16 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.