

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR GARY STEVENS

Introduced: 2/14/06

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to creating the Task Force to Assess Public Reporting of Health Care**
2 **Associated Infections.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** infections associated with health care are a major public health problem
5 in the United States, with an estimated 2,000,000 infections occurring each year; and

6 **WHEREAS** infections associated with health care cost 90,000 lives and
7 \$4,500,000,000 in excess health care costs each year; and

8 **WHEREAS**, since 2002, six states have enacted legislation that requires hospitals to
9 report hospital-acquired infections to the public; and

10 **WHEREAS** advocates of mandatory reporting, including the Consumers Union,
11 believe that making information about infections associated with health care available to the
12 public will enable patients to make more informed choices about their health care and will
13 improve overall health care quality; and

14 **WHEREAS** the state does not currently expressly require reporting of infections
15 associated with health care and hospital-acquired infections, except as part of a risk
16 management program;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Task Force to Assess
 2 Public Reporting of Health Care Associated Infections is established in the Legislative
 3 branch; the task force is composed of 10 members appointed jointly by the president of the
 4 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives a follows:

- 5 (1) two state senators;
 6 (2) two state representatives;
 7 (3) the state chief of epidemiology;
 8 (4) a consumer of health care who resides in rural Alaska;
 9 (5) a consumer of health care who resides in urban Alaska;
 10 (6) a representative of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium;
 11 (7) a representative of the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Professionals
 12 in Infection Control and Epidemiology; and
 13 (8) a representative of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home
 14 Association; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public members of the task force may not receive
 16 compensation, per diem, or reimbursement for travel or other expenses incurred while serving
 17 on the task force; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall

- 19 (1) conduct a review of the experience of the public with reporting of
 20 infections associated with health care and hospitals; and
 21 (2) develop a white paper to be used for drafting legislation for reporting of
 22 infections associated with health care and hospitals that addresses the unique health care
 23 challenges in the state, including
 24 (A) reporting mechanisms;
 25 (B) data sources and possible outcome and process measures to be
 26 reported;
 27 (C) a timeline for implementation of recommendations; and
 28 (D) the infrastructure needed for supporting a robust ongoing reporting
 29 system for disseminating accurate data; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may meet during and between legislative
 31 sessions; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall deliver the white paper of its
2 findings to the legislature by January 31, 2007; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force is terminated on February 1, 2007.

4 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Karleen Jackson,
5 Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services; and the Honorable Ted Stevens
6 and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
7 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.