

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 2/15/07

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to reauthorization of federal funding for children's health insurance; and**
2 **encouraging the Governor to support additional funding for and access to children's**
3 **health insurance.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the health of our children is of paramount importance to families in the
6 state; and

7 **WHEREAS** poor child health is a threat to the educational achievement and the social
8 and psychological well-being of the children in the state; and

9 **WHEREAS** protection of the health of our children is essential to the well-being of
10 our youngest citizens and the quality of life in the state; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Denali KidCare program was authorized under AS 47.07.020(b)(13)
12 in 1997, provided health coverage for approximately 7,600 children enrolled in the state
13 children's health insurance program and an additional 12,400 children enrolled in the
14 Medicaid program in December 2006, and is an integral part of the arrangements for health
15 benefits for the children in the state; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the value of the Denali KidCare
2 program in preserving child wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, improving
3 health outcomes, and reducing overall health costs; and

4 **WHEREAS** the federal funding available for the Denali KidCare program is
5 indispensable to providing health benefits for children of modest means;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Alaska Congressional
7 delegation to work diligently to achieve a timely reauthorization of the State Children's Health
8 Insurance Program (42 U.S.C. 1397aa - 1397jj, Title XXI of the Social Security Act) to
9 continue federal medical assistance percentages for the Denali KidCare program; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges Governor Palin to
11 work with the Alaska Congressional delegation to ensure reauthorization of the State
12 Children's Health Insurance Program in a timely manner; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims that all
14 components of state government should work together with educators, health care providers,
15 social workers, and parents to ensure that all available public and private assistance for
16 providing health benefits to uninsured children in the state be used to the maximum extent
17 possible; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges Governor Palin to
19 work to provide meaningful assistance to help identify and enroll children who qualify for
20 medical assistance or Denali KidCare.

21 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
22 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
23 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the Honorable Sarah
24 Palin, Governor of Alaska.