

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/21/07

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION

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

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

3 **WHEREAS** Alaska 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 spends billions of dollars annually on health-related costs, and despite these substantial
11 expenditures on health care, the state continues to rank low in the overall health of its
12 population; and

13 **WHEREAS** the demand for financing costly treatment continues to rise and spending
14 for less costly and more effective preventative health measures is decreasing; and

15 **WHEREAS** the state has a high rate of uninsured residents who often cannot afford
16 preventative health care programs or medical assistance when sick, resulting in a higher

1 incidence of long-term illness that often leads to catastrophic levels of debt; and

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

4 **WHEREAS** the state needs qualified health care workers to occupy the many unfilled
5 health care professional positions statewide; and

6 **WHEREAS** Alaska residents speak many languages, and the lack of qualified
7 translators creates barriers to accessing health information and treatment; and

8 **WHEREAS** health experts point to personal lifestyle choices as the greatest indicator
9 of a person's health;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature invites all state departments, all
11 local governments, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and every man, woman, and
12 child of the state to join the Alaska Health Compact; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Health Compact is an individual and
14 voluntary commitment by each Alaskan to take pride in the healthy choices made to promote
15 personal health and well-being, and each Alaskan is encouraged to share through various
16 media personal health successes and experiences with each other.

17 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Emil Notti, Commissioner,
18 Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; the Honorable Joe
19 Schmidt, Commissioner, Department of Corrections; the Honorable Roger Sampson,
20 Commissioner, Department of Education and Early Development; the Honorable Karleen
21 Jackson, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services; the Honorable Walt
22 Monegan, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety; the Honorable Mark R. Hamilton,
23 President, University of Alaska; and Richard I. Mauer, Chair, State Board of Education and
24 Early Development.