

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS BUNDE, McGuire

Introduced: 2/24/10

Referred: Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting senior caregivers and encouraging the Department of Health and Social**
2 **Services to provide additional education on the effects of aging and the importance of**
3 **senior caregivers.**

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

5 **WHEREAS**, every day, 17 people in Alaska turn 60; and

6 **WHEREAS** an estimated 79,847 people, or 11 percent of the state's population, are 65
7 years of age or older; and

8 **WHEREAS** the population in the state that is 65 years of age or older is expected to
9 increase by 59 percent in the next 20 years to 134,391 in 2030; and

10 **WHEREAS** the population in the state that is 85 years of age or older is projected to
11 reach 12,476 in 2030 and double to 24,952 by 2050; and

12 **WHEREAS** approximately 6,364 people in the state have Alzheimer's disease or a
13 related disorder, and it is estimated that 14,170 people will have Alzheimer's disease or a
14 related disorder by 2030; and

15 **WHEREAS** 70 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder live at

1 home and need assistance with activities of daily living; and

2 **WHEREAS** more than 25 percent of all seniors need some level of assistance with
3 activities of daily living; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in order to address the surging population of seniors who have
5 significant needs for in-home care, the field of senior caregiving will continue to grow; and

6 **WHEREAS** an estimated 96,800 adults in the state provide care to adult relatives or
7 friends, and an estimated 1,595 adults provide paid senior care to nonrelatives; and

8 **WHEREAS** the longer seniors are able to provide for themselves, the less the public
9 payment systems supported by state and federal governments are burdened;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature

11 (1) recognizes senior caregiving as a profession;

12 (2) supports the private home care industry and the efforts of family caregivers
13 statewide by encouraging individuals to provide care to family, friends, and neighbors;

14 (3) encourages accessible and affordable care for seniors;

15 (4) will review state policies and support current state programs that address
16 the needs of seniors and senior caregivers;

17 (5) encourages the Department of Health and Social Services to continue to
18 provide additional education on the effects of aging and the importance and availability of
19 senior caregivers to meet personal needs.