

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS GIESSEL, Gray-Jackson, Wielechowski, Tobin, Dunbar, Claman

REPRESENTATIVES Fields, Mina, Armstrong, Dibert, Story

Introduced: 3/13/23

Referred: Health & Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Encouraging Alaska's Congressional delegation and the federal government to raise**
2 **Medicare reimbursement rates to meet the actual cost of care for the state's senior**
3 **citizens.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** Medicare reimbursement rates are below Alaska Medicaid rates for most
6 services and are inadequate to cover the cost of care to senior citizens in the state; and

7 **WHEREAS** the cost of living in Alaska is among the highest in the United States,
8 leaving senior citizens with fewer financial resources to pay for health care and prescriptions,
9 a problem that is exacerbated by inflation; and

10 **WHEREAS** health care costs in Alaska are among the highest in the United States;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** Alaska has fewer primary care providers per capita than any other state;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS** Alaska has had the fastest growing senior population per capita of all 50
15 states for the last 10 consecutive years; and

1 **WHEREAS** health care providers may choose to accept a patient based on the
2 patient's insurance payer, and a diminishing number of primary care providers in the state
3 accept Medicare patients; and

4 **WHEREAS** the high cost of providing health care in the state makes accepting
5 Medicare patients difficult for both large corporate hospitals and small clinics and provider
6 groups; and

7 **WHEREAS** health care providers are further strained by the health care workforce
8 crisis, resulting in increased costs; and

9 **WHEREAS** lack of access to primary care delays care, resulting in more serious
10 intervention and higher costs to patients and the health care system; and

11 **WHEREAS** the closure of the Alaska Regional Senior Health Clinic has left hundreds
12 of seniors scrambling to find health care services in a very limited health care marketplace;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on the Alaska
14 Congressional delegation and the federal government to raise Medicare reimbursement rates
15 to meet the actual cost of care for the state's senior citizens.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
17 of the United States; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S.
18 Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
19 delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 118th United States Congress.