

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32(HSS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/9/26

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Expressing commitment to the rural health transformation program; acknowledging the**
2 **critical health care challenges facing rural areas of the state; and urging action by the**
3 **Governor and the Alaska delegation in Congress to continue to advocate for the state's**
4 **interests and advance the rural health transformation program.**

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

6 **WHEREAS**, on December 29, 2025, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
7 Services awarded the state \$272,174,856 for the first year of the rural health transformation
8 program to support targeted, systemwide investments that improve access to health care and
9 strengthen the long-term stability of the state's health care system; and

10 **WHEREAS** Alaska received the second-highest total funding allocation and the
11 highest per capita funding of any state in the United States, reflecting the critical health care
12 needs of the state and the state's rural frontier and the dedication of those individuals who
13 advocated for those resources; and

14 **WHEREAS** the challenges of living in Alaska require innovative solutions specific to
15 this state that may differ significantly from approaches used in the contiguous United States;

1 and

2 **WHEREAS** the rural health transformation program provides considerable assistance
3 to the state's health care system by enabling investments in the following six critical priority
4 areas:

5 (1) healthy beginnings, including strengthening maternal and child health
6 services to reduce preventable deaths and improve birth outcomes;

7 (2) health care access, including expanding essential health services in rural,
8 remote, and frontier communities where access is currently limited or nonexistent;

9 (3) healthy communities, including promoting healthy lifestyles, preventive
10 care, and community-based wellness initiatives;

11 (4) fiscal sustainability and value-based care, including pursuing innovative
12 payment models and sustainable financing mechanisms;

13 (5) workforce strengthening, including recruiting, training, retaining, and
14 supporting skilled health care professionals across the state; and

15 (6) technology and innovation, including modernizing health care
16 infrastructure, expanding telehealth capacity, and implementing innovative care delivery
17 models;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that prudent
19 stewardship of those federal funds requires careful planning, stakeholder engagement, and
20 clear federal guidance; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature wishes to signal its strong
22 commitment to the rural health transformation program and to establish clear priorities to
23 guide program implementation; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports flexibility in the
25 rural health transformation program's criteria and timeline to maximize investment in health
26 care facility infrastructure and workforce development; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor to

28 (1) work expeditiously with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
29 Services to obtain clarification on all uncertain aspects of allowable fund uses, particularly
30 regarding infrastructure investments, broadband purchases, and workforce incentive
31 structures;

1 (2) provide interim reports to the Alaska State Legislature on implementation,
2 fund distribution, and federal guidance received on the rural health transformation program;
3 and

4 (3) identify any barriers to the success of the rural health transformation
5 program that require legislative action or advocacy with federal authorities; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Alaska
7 delegation in Congress to

8 (1) continue advocating for the state's interests with the federal Centers for
9 Medicare and Medicaid Services;

10 (2) support maximum flexibility for the state given the state's unique
11 geographic and health care challenges; and

12 (3) defend the state's full funding allocation against any efforts to reduce or
13 redistribute those critical resources; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that the health
15 and well-being of all residents of the state depends on the successful implementation of the
16 rural health transformation program and that the Alaska State Legislature will work
17 cooperatively with the state and federal administrations to authorize and guide the use of
18 those transformative federal resources; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature affirms that improving
20 health care access in the state is a priority transcending political differences and commits to
21 working cooperatively across party lines to maximize the rural health transformation
22 program's benefit to all residents of the state; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature declares that this
24 resolution expresses the will of the Alaska State Legislature and provides guidance to state
25 agencies, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the public regarding
26 legislative priorities and intentions for the rural health transformation program.

27 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Mike Dunleavy, Governor
28 of Alaska; the Honorable Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner, Department of Health; Alina
29 Czekai, Director, Office of Rural Health Transformation, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
30 Services, United States Department of Health and Human Services; and the Honorable Lisa
31 Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas

1 Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.