

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR LOGAN

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 2

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to the need for hospital

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medical care for all Alaskans and

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the need for continuance of local

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community hospitals.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FIRST ALASKAN LEGISLATURE IN THE FIRST

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SESSION ASSEMBLED:

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WHEREAS, Alaska and the other forty-eight states suffered a
12 shortage of hospital facilities in smaller communities for many
13 years; and

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WHEREAS, the government of the United States joined the
15 governments of the states and territories in encouraging local
16 communities to build hospital facilities by offering financial
17 inducements for construction of hospitals which complied with
18 certain requirements; and

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WHEREAS, among other requirements, these hospital facilities
20 were to be available to all the people in their respective com-
21 munities, including the native Indian, Eskimo and Aleut peoples
22 of Alaska; and

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WHEREAS, although it is the announced policy of the Alaska
24 Native Health Service and the Division of Indian Health of the
25 United States Public Health Service to support local medical
26 facilities by increasing the contractual medical services to be
27 performed in local communities, the federal government's expan-
28 sion of its own facilities and services in Alaska has created the
29 following situation:

- 1 1. Native people in communities which have local hospitals
2 are sometimes transported hundreds of miles from their
3 homes to government hospitals for treatment which could
4 be obtained in their home community,
5 2. Local community hospitals, although built to serve all
6 the people in their respective area, find that their
7 potential clientele is restricted to only a portion of
8 the local population,
9 3. This reduction of use of local hospital facilities
10 necessarily results in reduction of service and in some
11 cases in the ultimate closing of the facility to the
12 great detriment of the community; and

13 WHEREAS, adequate medical and hospital service should be
14 immediately available to all the people in a given community on
15 equal terms, without discrimination on grounds of race, creed
16 or color;

17 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this First Legislature of
18 the State of Alaska urge the Department of Health, Education and
19 Welfare, through the United States Public Health Service and the
20 Division of Indian Health, the Alaska Hospital Association and the
21 Alaska Medical Association to intensify their efforts in making
22 arrangements whereby beneficiaries of the Alaska Native Health
23 Service may receive to the fullest extent possible medical and
24 hospital care in their own communities, thereby assuring the sur-
25 vival of necessary local medical facilities and services.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon
27 the minutes of this day's journal; and that copies be mailed to
28 the Area Director, Alaska Native Health Service; the Secretary,
29 Alaska Medical Association; the Secretary, Alaska Hospital

1 Association; the Director, Division of Indian Health, United States
2 Public Health Service; The Surgeon General, United States Public
3 Health Service; the Secretary, Department of Health, Education
4 and Welfare; Honorable E.L. Bartlett, United States Senator from
5 Alaska; Honorable Ernest Gruening, United States Senator from
6 Alaska and Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, Congressman from Alaska.

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