

Introduced: 3/29/71
Referred: Health, Welfare &
Education and State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY FERGUSON, SWANSON, MOORE
AND DEGNAN

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 65

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to dental care in the
6 rural areas of Alaska.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS one of the greatest needs of the citizens of rural Alaska is
9 adequate dental care; and

10 WHEREAS, in order to encourage the practice of dentistry in rural areas,
11 the state permits dentists to practice in areas that are 100 miles or more
12 from a resident licensed dentist; and

13 WHEREAS in the rural areas of Alaska there is not a large enough popu-
14 lation to support a private practitioner; and

15 WHEREAS both the residents of any given community and the dentist
16 involved would greatly benefit if the United States Public Health Service
17 would contract with those dentists living in rural areas to service those
18 United States beneficiaries who reside in the area of the dentist's
19 practice; and

20 WHEREAS, if this were done, it would free Public Health Service person-
21 nel to concentrate their efforts in the rural areas that currently receive
22 no dental aid in any way; and

23 WHEREAS in certain areas the United States Public Health Service is
24 now planning to send their personnel into areas where practicing dentists
25 are already in residence and this is due to a lack of funds in the Public
26 Health Service budget for contractual services;

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the United States Public
28 Health Service is urgently requested to immediately seek adequate funding
29 for contractual services so that it may contract with private persons to

1 service United States beneficiaries in the area of a private practitioner's
2 residence, and to redirect their dental care services to those areas of
3 the state that are totally lacking in dental services at this time; and be
4 it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is urgently requested
6 to provide increased and adequate funding for all areas of concern to the
7 United States Public Health Service, and especially the allotment of
8 increased contractual funds for dental services.

9 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
10 Nixon, President of the United States, the Honorable Elliott Richardson,
11 Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; and to the
12 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and
13 the Honorable Nick Begich, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska dele-
14 gation in Congress.

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