

Introduced: 3/20/72
Referred: Health, Welfare and
Education

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to vision care in rural
6 Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS the Alaska Optometric Association has long recognized the need
9 for additional vision care personnel in the bush areas of Alaska; and

10 WHEREAS the Alaska Optometric Association has dedicated its efforts
11 towards the fulfillment of this need by offering 16 weeks of free care by
12 its members in 1967, and by encouraging the Public Health Service to expand
13 the vision care offered by commissioning optometrists for the Public Health
14 Service to use in Alaska; and

15 WHEREAS in 1971 the Public Health Service did include the addition of
16 optometric care in their budget request with assurance by the American Opto-
17 metric Association that optometrists were willing and available to provide
18 this very necessary and needed care; and

19 WHEREAS the funds necessary to provide optometric care are minimal com-
20 pared to the opportunities adequate vision could provide in education and
21 ability to increase employment potential by bush Alaskans;

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the United States Public
23 Health Service take immediate action to fully implement this worthwhile and
24 necessary program.

25 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Elliott L.
26 Richardson, Secretary, Department of Health, Education and Welfare;
27 Dr. Emery Johnson, Director, Indian Health Service; and to the Honorable Ted
28 Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick
29 Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.