

Introduced: 5/2/78  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 128

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting a comprehensive plan to

6 minimize otitis media.

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

8 WHEREAS otitis media, a middle ear disease, is a significant recurring  
9 health problem in rural Alaska and strikes about one in four preschool stu-  
10 dents; and

11 WHEREAS this rate is about five times the rate in the rest of the United  
12 States; and

13 WHEREAS the hearing loss which can result from acute otitis media has  
14 been positively correlated with diminished academic performance, retarded  
15 speech and language skills, and delayed psychosocial development; and

16 WHEREAS the piecemeal efforts of the past to combat this disease have  
17 been directed at diagnosis and treatment programs, without devoting sufficient  
18 resources to the systematic planning for the prevention and management of the  
19 disease; and

20 WHEREAS a coordinated effort by the state and federal government agencies  
21 interested in otitis media is necessary to maximize the effectiveness of  
22 health dollars spent in this area;

23 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
24 the Governor to direct the Department of Health and Social Services to design  
25 a comprehensive plan to minimize the occurrence and severity of otitis media  
26 in Alaska and to estimate the cost of implementing such a plan; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the department submit its plan to the legislature  
28 by the 10th day of the First Session of the Eleventh Legislature.

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