

Introduced: 3/17/80
Referred: Finance

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 83

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to compensation to Alaska
6 physicians who participate in the
7 Medicaid program.

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

9 WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has en-
10 countered a serious problem which prevents the department from compensating
11 Alaska physicians adequately for their participation in the Medicaid program;
12 and

13 WHEREAS the problem results directly from the federal Medicaid rules on
14 physician reimbursement; and

15 WHEREAS the federal Medicaid rules tie the availability of compensation
16 to Alaska physicians to a cost-of-living adjustment which is used in the
17 contiguous 48 states and which is unrealistic in Alaska; and

18 WHEREAS the federal Medicaid rules do not make any allowance for the
19 Alaska cost of living which departs substantially from the national norm; and

20 WHEREAS adherence to the federal Medicaid rules has resulted in a situa-
21 tion where many Alaska physicians receive 50 percent or less of their normal
22 charges for services when the patient is covered by Medicaid; and

23 WHEREAS the result not only affects the availability of services to
24 recipients of Medicaid and the participation by physicians in the Medicaid
25 program but has the effect of driving up the cost of medical care to all
26 other patients as well; and

27 WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has sought
28 to resolve this problem by contact with federal Medicaid officials but to no
29 avail; and

1 WHEREAS the federal Medicaid Director for Region X has advised Alaska
2 officials that an Alaska cost-of-living index may not be substituted for the
3 economic index used by Medicare to determine rates across the United States;
4 and

5 WHEREAS the lack of flexibility in the provisions of federal law govern-
6 ing the Medicaid program can be resolved only through an Act of Congress;

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that Congress is urged to
8 introduce an element of flexibility into the federal laws governing the
9 reimbursement of physicians participating in the Medicaid program and par-
10 ticularly to allow the use of local cost-of-living differentials for the
11 reimbursement of physicians.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy E. Carter,
13 President of the United States; the Honorable Walter F. Mondale, President of
14 the U. S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U. S.
15 House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
16 Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representa-
17 tive, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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