

Introduced: 2/13/79
Referred: Health, Education
& Social Services

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HACKNEY

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Applauding the Alaska hospitals
6 voluntary cost containment efforts
7 and requesting a progress report to
8 the legislature."

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

10 WHEREAS every American is entitled to quality hospital care at a cost he
11 or she can afford; and

12 WHEREAS the cost of hospital care in America is spiraling up at a more
13 rapid pace than many other items in the consumer budget, placing such care
14 out of the price range of many Americans; and

15 WHEREAS the high costs of hospital care are paid by all of us in the
16 form of higher taxes, higher health insurance premiums, and increased out-
17 of-pocket expenditures by consumers; and

18 WHEREAS this high cost pattern has been the subject of much debate on
19 the federal level, and the potential of federal mandatory cost containment
20 controls for all 50 states appears imminent if this pattern continues; and

21 WHEREAS Alaska's hospitals would be subject to such federal cost con-
22 tainment plans that do not always address the unique problems and needs of
23 Alaska; and

24 WHEREAS many of Alaska's hospitals, through the efforts of the Alaska
25 Hospital Association, have joined with other state hospital associations in a
26 voluntary effort to moderate the rate of increase in health care expenditures
27 without reducing the quality and accessibility of health care; and

28 WHEREAS 87 per cent of Alaska's hospitals have demonstrated substantial
29 support and commitment to this voluntary effort, and this participation rate

1 is far above the rates experienced in many other states;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature wholeheartedly applauds
3 the voluntary cost containment efforts of the Alaska Hospital Association to
4 moderate the rising cost of Alaska's hospital care, thus eliminating the need
5 for future federal intervention which may not be in the best interest of
6 Alaska's citizens and hospitals; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature believes the con-
8 tinued exchange of information with the Alaska Hospital Association Voluntary
9 Effort Committee is essential to the legislature's understanding of this
10 issue, and respectfully requests the committee to report to the legislature
11 no later than January 15, 1980 regarding its progress toward, and problems
12 in, meeting cost containment goals.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Alaska Hospital Associa-
14 tion Voluntary Effort Committee and the National Hospital Association Volun-
15 tary Effort Committee.

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