

Introduced: 4/24/85
Referred: Health, Education & Social Services

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Opposing proposed federal medicaid

6

funding reductions and requesting the

7

Governor and the members of Alaska's

8

delegation in Congress to take action to

9

oppose the reductions.

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

11 WHEREAS President Reagan has proposed a general reduction of
12 \$1,000,000,000 in the medicaid program in federal fiscal year 1986 and
13 similar reductions each year thereafter in exchange for allowing the states
14 an undefined "increased administrative flexibility"; and

15 WHEREAS President Reagan's proposal would result in Alaska's federal
16 medicaid funds being reduced by more than \$2,000,000 in federal fiscal year
17 1986 alone, a reduction of approximately six percent from present funding;
18 and

19 WHEREAS Alaska's small rural hospitals cannot shift hospital costs to
20 other payors to alleviate the effect of reduced medicaid funding, as can
21 the predominantly large, urban hospitals throughout the rest of the nation;
22 and

23 WHEREAS if President Reagan's medicaid proposal is accepted by
24 Congress, the state will be forced to reduce significantly its already
25 limited medicaid program by eliminating services and eligible groups; and

26 WHEREAS Alaska's medicaid program is smaller than the programs of 40
27 other states in the nation and the services that it provides are those that
28 are critically needed; and

29 WHEREAS the proposed funding cuts would not eliminate as many

1 critically needed services from the programs of most of the other states in
2 the nation as it would in Alaska and the other states with smaller
3 programs; and

4 WHEREAS President Reagan's proposed funding reduction does not provide
5 that the funding for non-critical services throughout the nation will be
6 reduced before the funding for critical services is reduced; and

7 WHEREAS federal medicaid officials have not yet responded to the
8 state's specific program concerns and request for clarification regarding
9 the medicaid budget proposal, and they have not yet specified the nature of
10 the "increased administrative flexibility" to be given to the states;

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully
12 requests the Governor and the members of Alaska's delegation in Congress to
13 take appropriate steps to notify President Reagan and the members of Con-
14 gress of the opposition of the Alaska State Legislature to the proposed
15 federal medicaid reduction, and to take appropriate action to ensure that
16 President Reagan's proposal fails to pass Congress in its present form.

17 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
18 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,
19 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to
20 the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; to
21 the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Repre-
22 sentatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
23 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
24 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.