

Introduced: 2/16/88
Referred: Health, Education and
Social Services

5-1558B

1 IN THE SENATE

BY JOSEPHSON AND KELLY

2

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the funding of community

6

mental health services.

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

8 WHEREAS public demand for community mental health services throughout
9 the state is increasing; and

10 WHEREAS only part of the population that requires community mental
11 health services is able to pay the cost of the services through personal
12 resources or medical insurance, or through third-party payment plans,
13 contracts, or entitlements; and

14 WHEREAS it is necessary, therefore, that part of the cost of community
15 mental health services be borne by the state; and

16 WHEREAS failure to meet the demand for community mental health ser-
17 vices raises the likelihood of additional public costs through hospital-
18 ization, law enforcement and corrections, public assistance, and other
19 programs; and

20 WHEREAS, through the passage in 1987 of enactments designed to settle
21 litigation involving mental health trust lands, the state has undertaken a
22 commitment to increase in increments its appropriations for the treatment
23 of patients requiring mental health services; and

24 WHEREAS in 1987 the Department of Health and Social Services published
25 its five-year comprehensive mental health plan, calling for the development
26 of a funding formula to allocate any new funds; and

27 WHEREAS, although state support for community mental health services
28 as part of a continuum of mental health care must be increased, sound
29 management principles require that the allocation of support among Alaska

1 communities be fair so that each community mental health catchment area re-
2 ceives a just portion of appropriations for this purpose under generally
3 accepted, written criteria; and

4 WHEREAS distribution of appropriated funds for community mental health
5 services under published criteria consistent with law will promote better
6 planning and utilization of state funds; and

7 WHEREAS demand for community mental health services tends to increase
8 in communities having psychiatric hospitals and other mental health facil-
9 ities;

10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
11 the Governor to direct the Alaska Mental Health Board to propose legis-
12 lation or make other recommendations to the legislature by January 9, 1989,
13 for the establishment of a formula for the funding of community mental
14 health services that takes into account a catchment area's population, the
15 cost of service delivery including transportation costs, and demographic
16 features that are germane to the level of the demand for community mental
17 health services in the area.

18 A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to Jerry Schraeder, acting
19 director, Alaska Mental Health Board.