

BY JONES, ZHAROFF, STURGULEWSKI,
HALFORD, KELLY, FISCHER, DUNCAN,
COGHILL, ADAMS, FAIKS AND
ELIASON

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Requesting the Veterans Administration

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and the Department of Defense to con-

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sider the importance of community health

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care for veterans.

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

10 WHEREAS the Veterans Administration (VA) health care delivery system
11 provides veterans access to quality health care services in their own
12 Alaska communities; and

13 WHEREAS Alaska has more than 70,000 veterans and approximately 52
14 percent of those veterans reside outside the Municipality of Anchorage; and

15 WHEREAS Alaska veterans and their families live in many remote Alaska
16 communities where air travel is costly and sometimes not available; and

17 WHEREAS Alaska's fragile health care system is dependent on the par-
18 ticipation of all population groups to maintain health professionals,
19 medical technologies, and routine and specialized health services in rural
20 Alaska; and

21 WHEREAS the current VA system allows veterans to be cared for in their
22 home communities;

23 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Veterans
24 Administration and Department of Defense to consider the following factors
25 when they set policies related to veterans' health care:

26 (1) it is important to the Alaska veteran to receive care
27 in the veteran's home community; and

28 (2) care for veterans in their home communities assists in
29 the maintenance of a health care delivery system for all Alaskans.

1 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Edward J. Derwinski, Admin-
2 istrator of Veterans Affairs; the Secretary of Defense; and to the Honor-
3 able Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
4 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
5 in Congress; and the Director of the Veterans Administration office in
6 Anchorage, Alaska.