

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16 (HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 1/24/92

Referred: State Affairs

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES BRUCKMAN, Gruenberg, B.Davis, Carney

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 12 - 18, 1992, as "Bone Marrow Donor Week."

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

3 WHEREAS many Alaskans and thousands of people throughout the world suffer from leukemia
4 and other blood-related diseases and cannot survive without a bone marrow transplant; and

5 WHEREAS recent advances in bone marrow transplants now give people dying of blood-related
6 diseases hope to be cured if a donor can be found whose bone marrow matches their own; and

7 WHEREAS 70 percent of the individuals needing a bone marrow transplant lack a qualified
8 donor within their own families and must find an unrelated donor whose bone marrow perfectly matches
9 their own to provide the life-saving marrow; and

10 WHEREAS the chances of finding a suitable unrelated bone marrow donor is between one in
11 20,000 and one in 1,000,000, depending on the patient's genetic make-up; and

12 WHEREAS there is a national bone marrow donor registry, established in 1987, to assist people
13 in finding a suitable donor from a pool of 230,000 "typed" volunteers ready and willing to donate their
14 life-giving marrow; and

15 WHEREAS there is an urgent, nationwide need to increase the pool to 1,000,000 available
16 marrow donors of all ethnic backgrounds to increase the chance of finding a suitable donor for the

1 10,000 people who are currently awaiting a bone marrow transplant throughout the United States and
2 who will die without a bone marrow transplant; and

3 **WHEREAS** thousands of people have already died for lack of a compatible marrow donor and
4 this same grim prospect faces many other patients and their families throughout Alaska; and

5 **WHEREAS** the procedure for initial compatibility testing is considered completely safe and
6 virtually painless, requiring only two tablespoons of blood; and

7 **WHEREAS** it is necessary to promote a greater awareness of the need for healthy bone marrow
8 donors and to encourage Alaskans to step forward to be typed and enrolled into the National Bone
9 Marrow Donor Registry so that the pool of donors is as large and diverse as possible;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature designates the week of April 12 - 18, 1992,
11 as "Bone Marrow Donor Week"; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature encourages the commissioners of the state
13 departments, with the commissioner of health and social services taking the lead, to work in cooperation
14 with the Blood Bank of Alaska, Inc., to educate and inform state employees and other Alaskans about
15 the bone marrow donor program through newsletters, check stubs, and other appropriate forms of
16 communication.