

**HOUSE CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29 (STATE AFFAIRS)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 2/18/92**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): SENATORS COTTEN, Sturgulewski, Menard, Halford, Rodey, Pourchot, Kerttula, Duncan, Uehling, Craft, Fischer**

**REPRESENTATIVES Navarre, R.Phillips, Bruckman**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 Designating April 19 - 25, 1992, as "Bone Marrow Donor Week"; and requesting the  
2 governor to proclaim an annual "Bone Marrow Donor Week."

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

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

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

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

11       **WHEREAS** the chances of finding a suitable unrelated bone marrow donor is between one in  
12 20,000 and one in 1,000,000, depending on the patient's genetic make-up; and

13       **WHEREAS** there is a national bone marrow donor registry, established in 1987, to assist people  
14 in finding a suitable donor from a pool of 470,000 "typed" volunteers ready and willing to donate their  
15 life-giving marrow; and

16       **WHEREAS** there is an urgent, nationwide need to increase the pool to 1,000,000 available

1 marrow donors of all ethnic backgrounds to increase the chance of finding a suitable donor for the  
2 10,000 people who are currently awaiting a bone marrow transplant throughout the United States and  
3 who will die without a bone marrow transplant; and

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

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

8       **WHEREAS** Alaska currently has over 4,100 potential donors in the National Registry; and

9       **WHEREAS** in 1991, despite the staggering odds, Alaskan donors provided six bone marrow  
10 matches, and three were provided for Alaskans requiring the marrow transplant through reciprocal  
11 nationwide efforts through the National Bone Marrow Donor Program; and

12       **WHEREAS** the Blood Bank of Alaska has conducted successful bone marrow drives in  
13 Anchorage, Juneau, Eagle River, Wasilla, Palmer, Fairbanks, McGrath, Kenai, Soldotna, and Hoonah  
14 with drives scheduled for Kodiak and Dutch Harbor; and

15       **WHEREAS**, coupled with the aid of a special appropriation for type testing, numerous service  
16 organizations throughout the state, spearheaded by the Eagle River Lions and Lionesses, have provided  
17 countless hours in raising necessary funds and volunteering thousands of hours to conduct the drives  
18 throughout Alaska and the ongoing efforts in Anchorage and Eagle River; and

19       **WHEREAS** in 1991 over 3,500 additional Alaskans were enrolled in the National Bone Marrow  
20 Registry as a result of these efforts; and

21       **WHEREAS** a special outreach also helped enroll 126 Alaska Natives who were seriously  
22 underrepresented in the National Registry and, as a result, were unlikely to find a successful match; and

23       **WHEREAS** it is necessary to continue to promote a greater awareness of the need for healthy  
24 bone marrow donors and to encourage more Alaskans to step forward to be typed and enrolled in the  
25 National Bone Marrow Donor Registry so that the pool is as large and diverse as possible; and

26       **WHEREAS** with these initial efforts a minimum of one percent of Alaska's total population will  
27 be enrolled in the Bone Marrow Donor Program;

28       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature designates the week of April 19 - 25, 1992,  
29 as "Bone Marrow Donor Week"; and be it

30       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature respectfully requests the governor to proclaim a  
31 "Bone Marrow Donor Week" during an appropriate time period each year, setting the dates to correspond  
32 with a nationally recognized week if there is one; and be it

1        **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature encourages the commissioners of the state  
2 departments, with the commissioner of health and social services taking the lead, to work in cooperation  
3 with the Blood Bank of Alaska, Inc., to make continuing efforts to educate and inform state employees  
4 and other Alaskans about the bone marrow donor program through newsletters, check stubs, and other  
5 appropriate forms of communication.