

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE G.DAVIS

Introduced: 3/24/93

Referred: Labor & Commerce, Health, Education & Social Services, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to a health insurance pool established for residents of the Kenai**
2 **Peninsula Borough.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** an estimated 90,000 residents of the state cannot afford to pay their
5 medical bills, are not covered by a group health insurance plan, do not qualify for public
6 assistance programs, or cannot afford to pay individual health insurance premiums; and

7 **WHEREAS** every resident should have access to a basic level of health care regardless
8 of income and should not become financially destitute before obtaining health care; and

9 **WHEREAS** the legislature recognizes a continuing need to develop and evaluate ways
10 to manage health care in the state and in recognition of that need the Seventeenth Alaska State
11 Legislature established by Legislative Resolve 45, the Health Resources and Access Task
12 Force in 1991; and

13 **WHEREAS** the federal, state, and local governments have recognized this need and
14 are attempting to address health care reform issues; and

15 **WHEREAS** the President of the United States has called for a national health care
16 reform program that would mandate certain base levels of health care be provided by states

1 using some form of regional purchasing group, managed competition, and other mechanisms;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS** the Health Resources and Access Task Force has submitted a final report
4 to the Governor and the Legislature in January 1993 and recommended

5 (1) a comprehensive strategy for improving health care for all Alaskans,
6 including cost containment efforts, health care access improvements, public health or service
7 delivery system enhancements, and medical malpractice reform;

8 (2) the establishment of regulatory reform measures in the small group health
9 insurance market;

10 (3) that insurers move toward community rating in establishing premiums in
11 the small group insurance markets;

12 (4) the establishment of state-sponsored health insurance pooling arrangements;
13 and

14 (5) that adequate resources be devoted to maintaining a strong health care
15 infrastructure in the state; and

16 **WHEREAS** the legislature recognizes the need for extensive local involvement and
17 participation in programs designed to meet their needs and that test or model programs often
18 are the mechanism to determine long-term statewide programs or agendas;

19 **WHEREAS** the Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District, Inc., has
20 established a Kenai Peninsula Borough Health Care Advisory Council to develop
21 recommendations for a health care plan for the Kenai Peninsula Borough residents; and

22 **WHEREAS** the Kenai Peninsula Borough Health Care Advisory Council has
23 completed extensive surveys of the Kenai Peninsula and produced a report in October 1992
24 detailing the needs for improved health care for the residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough;
25 and

26 **WHEREAS** the Kenai Peninsula Borough Health Care Advisory Council has made a
27 recommendation that small businesses, large group employers, and government employee units
28 on the Kenai Peninsula join together to establish a health maintenance organization as
29 authorized by Title 21 of the Alaska Statutes; and

30 **WHEREAS** the intent of forming this organization for the Kenai Peninsula Borough,
31 in addition to improving health care and access to same, is to demonstrate implementation of
32 a successful locally developed, consumer governed, community based payer model for

1 adaptation statewide; and

2 **WHEREAS** the problems and opportunities presented in improving health care and
3 access to health care of the Kenai Peninsula Borough parallel those found elsewhere
4 throughout the state and nation; and

5 **WHEREAS** the residents and leadership of the Kenai Peninsula Borough working
6 through the Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District, Inc., and using the
7 Kenai Peninsula Borough Health Care Advisory Council have developed a plan of
8 implementation for this model;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that, subject to a referendum vote
10 of the residents, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Health Care Advisory Council be recognized
11 as a model regional area for pooling insurance requirements, for establishing community rating
12 for insurance premiums, for developing small group insurance regulatory reform measures, and
13 for establishing a health maintenance organization; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State legislature that the Governor is
15 respectfully requested to direct the commissioner of health and social services to offer
16 financial and other support to assist the Kenai Peninsula Borough Health Care Advisory
17 Council and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District, Inc., in their
18 pursuit of a model region wide health access and basic care program.