

STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1978

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

HCR 128

23



Requesting a comprehensive plan to minimize otitis media.

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

WHEREAS otitis media, a middle ear disease, is a significant recurring health problem in rural Alaska and strikes about one in four preschool students; and

WHEREAS this rate is about five times the rate in the rest of the United States; and

WHEREAS the hearing loss which can result from acute otitis media has been positively correlated with diminished academic performance, retarded speech and language skills, and delayed psychosocial development; and

WHEREAS the piecemeal efforts of the past to combat this disease have been directed at diagnosis and treatment programs, without devoting sufficient resources to the systematic planning for the prevention and management of the disease; and

WHEREAS a coordinated effort by the state and federal government agencies interested in otitis media is necessary to maximize the effectiveness of health dollars spent in this area;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the Department of Health and Social Services to design a comprehensive plan to minimize the occurrence and severity of otitis media in Alaska and to estimate the cost of implementing such a plan; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the department submit its plan to the legislature by the 10th day of the First Session of the Eleventh Legislature.