

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1980

Source

HJR 83

Legislative  
Resolve No.

14



Relating to compensation to Alaska physicians who participate in the Medicaid program.

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

WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has encountered a serious problem which prevents the department from compensating Alaska physicians adequately for their participation in the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS the problem results directly from the federal Medicaid rules on physician reimbursement; and

WHEREAS the federal Medicaid rules tie the availability of compensation to Alaska physicians to a cost-of-living adjustment which is used in the contiguous 48 states and which is unrealistic in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the federal Medicaid rules do not make any allowance for the Alaska cost of living which departs substantially from the national norm; and

WHEREAS adherence to the federal Medicaid rules has resulted in a situation where many Alaska physicians receive 50 percent or less of their normal charges for services when the patient is covered by Medicaid; and

WHEREAS the result not only affects the availability of services to recipients of Medicaid and the participation by physicians in the Medicaid program but has the effect of driving up the cost of medical care to all other patients as well; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has sought to resolve this problem by contact with federal Medicaid officials but to no avail; and

WHEREAS the federal Medicaid Director for Region X has advised Alaska officials that an Alaska cost-of-living index may not be substituted for the economic index used by Medicare to determine rates across the United States; and

WHEREAS the lack of flexibility in the provisions of federal law governing the Medicaid program can be resolved only through an Act of Congress;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that Congress is urged to introduce an element of flexibility into the federal laws governing the reimbursement of physicians participating in the Medicaid program and particularly to allow the use of local cost-of-living differentials for the reimbursement of physicians.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States; the Honorable Walter F. Mondale, President of the U. S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.