

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1991

Source

SCR 17

Legislative
Resolve No.

7



Designating April 14 - 20, 1991, as "Bone Marrow Donor Week."

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS there is a national bone marrow donor registry, established in 1987, to assist people in finding a suitable donor from a pool of 230,000 "typed" volunteers ready and willing

to donate their life-giving marrow; and

WHEREAS there is an urgent, nationwide need to increase the pool to 1,000,000 available marrow donors of all ethnic backgrounds to increase the chance of finding a suitable donor for the 10,000 people who are currently awaiting a bone marrow transplant throughout the United States and who will die without a bone marrow transplant; and

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature designates the week of April 14 - 20, 1991, as "Bone Marrow Donor Week"; and be it

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