

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1997

Source

HJR 31

Legislative
Resolve No.

40



Requesting the United States Congress to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

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

WHEREAS improving patient access to quality health care is a paramount national goal; and

WHEREAS the key to improved health care, especially for persons with serious unmet medical needs, is the rapid approval of safe and effective new drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and

WHEREAS minimizing the delay between discovery and eventual approval of a new drug, biological product, or medical device derived from research conducted by innovative pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies could improve the lives of millions of United States citizens; and

WHEREAS current limitations on the dissemination of information about pharmaceutical products reduce the availability of information to physicians, other health care professionals, and patients and unfairly limit the right of free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS the current rules and practices governing the review of new drugs, biological products, and medical devices by the United States Food and Drug Administration

can delay approvals and are unnecessarily expensive;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to address the important issues described above by enacting comprehensive legislation to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 - 395) to facilitate the rapid review and approval of innovative new drugs, biological products, and medical devices, without compromising patient safety or product effectiveness.

COPIES of this resolution, properly certified, shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.