Presented by: The Manager
Introduced: 04/24/91
Drafted by: B.J.B.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1509

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT SENATE BILL NO. 156 WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PSYCHOLOGISTS AND CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS AS INDEPENDENT PROVIDERS IN THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, state law sets forth the optional medical assistance services which may be compensated by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services through the medical assistance program, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 156 would amend state law to include psychologists' services and clinical social workers' services as optional medical services that will be compensated by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services through the medical assistance program, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 156 would increase the variety of mental health providers who may provide compensated services under the medical assistance program, and

WHEREAS, this change would improve access to community-based mental health services and allow clients to choose a mental health provider who can best meet their needs, and

WHEREAS, given that Senate Bill No. 156 does not expand mental health coverage, its fiscal impact would be minimal, and

WHEREAS, similar freedom-of-choice legislation has been adopted by other states and has not resulted in any increased costs to insurers or employers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

1. That the Assembly urges the Alaska Legislature to adopt Senate Bill No. 156 which would include psychologists' services and clinical social workers' services as optional medical services that will be compensated by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services through the medical assistance program.

2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 24th day of April, 1991.

Deputy Mayor

Attest:

Patty Ann Polley
Clerk