

Failed 4/25/22

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

Erickson

RESOLUTION 22-035(A)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOMER ALASKA SUPPORTING
ALASKA HOUSE BILL 252 NO PATIENT LEFT ALONE ACT.

WHEREAS, HB 252 seeks to safeguard a patient's right to a support person receiving emergency medical services, or staying at hospital, nursing facility, assisted living home, or hospice care. This bill ensures no patient is left alone when they feel most medically vulnerable and may not be withheld a support person based on a state or federal declaration of disaster; and

WHEREAS, The pandemic has caused great uncertainty and anxiety across the state and has significantly affected the medical community. Many unintended consequences have happened to patients because of visitation policies that have prohibited them from having any visitors, including a spouse, parent, close family member, guardian, health care agent, chaplain, or caregiver; and as a result, many have been forced to be alone during their treatment for serious conditions, traumas, illnesses, heart attacks, and routine and emergency surgeries; and

WHEREAS, Some of these patients Alaskans have been forced to be alone for the entire course of their treatment and in some cases have died alone; and many families have been unable to be physically present with their loved ones while in a hospital, nursing home, hospice care, adult care home, special care unit, or residential treatment setting for mental illness, developmental or intellectual disability, or substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans have been limited to electronic video communications, if any, with the patient; and the patients who have been affected have included adults, minors, and individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities; however, it is the belief of the City of Homer that it is our moral obligation that these patients be allowed at least one support person of their choice to be physically present at reasonable times throughout the period of hospitalization or residential treatment; and

WHEREAS, There has been extensive research and peer reviewed studies done that support persons benefit the health of patients during their stay and increase morale as well as ease the burden of hospital personnel from assisting the patient's basic needs. Additionally, any patient who has a support person by their side for the entirety of their stay will be more at ease mentally and could likely be on track to a faster recovery; and

42 WHEREAS, The community at large has struggled greatly in dealing with inconsistent
43 hospital policies that sometimes allow them to be with their loved ones who are laid up in
44 recovery and other times have denied them; and

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46 WHEREAS, Other states have passed a No Patient Left Alone Act (Florida, Arkansas,
47 North Carolina, Oklahoma) this Bill is in line with others protecting their people.

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49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Homer supports House Bill 252, the
50 No Patient Left Alone Act.

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52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Homer City Council respectively request the House
53 leadership bring this bill to the floor for a vote this session **with 32nd Alaska State Legislature**
54 **to pass HB 252 into law before the end of the second regular session.**

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56 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council on this 25th day of April, 2022.

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58 CITY OF HOMER

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62 _____
63 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

64 ATTEST:
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68 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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70 Fiscal Note: N/A