

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2011

Source
CSHCR 1(HSS)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
9



Proclaiming November 2011 to be Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

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

WHEREAS an estimated 43,140 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States in 2010, and an estimated 36,800 of those will die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, as the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, pancreatic cancer ranks as one of the nation's deadliest cancers; and

WHEREAS, by the time symptoms of pancreatic cancer first appear, it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis; and

WHEREAS 75 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within a year after diagnosis, and 94 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within five years after diagnosis; and

WHEREAS the incidence of pancreatic cancer is approximately 50 percent higher in African-Americans than in other ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics reported 158 deaths from pancreatic cancer in Alaska during the period 2006 - 2008; and

WHEREAS a cure for pancreatic cancer has not yet been found, and survival rates have not improved substantially in the last 40 years; and

WHEREAS smoking, obesity, family history of the disease, and diabetes are the leading known risk factors for pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS the federal government invests significantly less money in pancreatic cancer research than it does in research on other forms of cancer that rank among the leading causes of death by cancer; and

WHEREAS pancreatic cancer research funding constitutes only two percent of the National Cancer Institute's federal research funding--an amount far too low, given the severity of the disease, the mortality rate, and how little is known about how to arrest the disease; and

WHEREAS the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, as the first and only national patient advocacy organization to serve the pancreatic cancer community in the state and nationwide, focuses its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, and public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and finding a cure for pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, including its affiliates in the state, supports patients who are battling pancreatic cancer, honors those who have lost their lives to the disease, and continues to pursue its commitment to finding and developing a cure for pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS expanded research into locating the disease's causes, enhancing early detection, and developing effective treatments will increase awareness of and knowledge about pancreatic cancer among Alaskans and directly enhance the good health and well-being of the state's residents;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims November 2011 to be Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.