

# STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2009

Source  
CSHR 6(FIN)

House  
Resolve No.  
6



Encouraging the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to develop its land and resources to the fullest extent possible consistent with its legal and moral responsibility to advance mental health services and employment opportunities that protect and enhance the lives of those who benefit from the mental health trust.

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## BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is the trustee of the trust established under the Alaska Mental Health Enabling Act of 1956, P.L. 84-830, 70 Stat. 709; and

**WHEREAS** the mental health trust was established with more than 1,000,000 acres of land and \$200,000,000 to serve the beneficiaries of the trust with services related to mental health and to enable the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to act as a catalyst for change in the systems and services that serve the beneficiaries of the trust; and

**WHEREAS** many of Alaska's most vulnerable citizens, who experience mental illness, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, alcohol and substance addictions, traumatic brain injuries, and other mental health disabilities, are

beneficiaries of the mental health trust; and

**WHEREAS** many of these vulnerable Alaskans suffer neglect; sexual, physical, and emotional abuse; homelessness; and exposure to domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS** many communities lack adequate mental health care and treatment facilities; and

**WHEREAS** employment opportunities, treatment, education, and housing for beneficiaries of the mental health trust are particularly limited in the rural areas of the state; and

**WHEREAS** the lack of jobs in the rural areas of the state contributes to unlawful behavior, feelings of despair, and, in extreme cases, suicide; and

**WHEREAS** more than 40 percent of the offenders in Alaska's correctional facilities are beneficiaries of the mental health trust; and

**WHEREAS** many of the beneficiaries of the mental health trust who have access to an adequate support program are capable of being employed; and

**WHEREAS** prevention and early intervention by mental health organizations can prevent more costly institutional and intensive care; and

**WHEREAS** the costs of providing mental health care services are increasing; and

**WHEREAS** the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and other partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget, and implement an integrated and comprehensive mental health program for the state; and

**WHEREAS** the ability of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to assist the state in developing a better mental health program is largely dependent on the authority's ability to generate revenue from the land and natural resources of the trust; and

**WHEREAS** development of the land held by the mental health trust creates jobs for beneficiaries of the mental health trust and other Alaskans;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives encourages the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to develop its land and resources to the fullest extent possible, consistent with its legal and moral responsibility to advance mental health services and employment opportunities that protect and enhance the lives of those who benefit from the mental health trust.