

**STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE**

2021

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**Senate
Resolve No.**
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Urging the governor to issue a new declaration.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2021, the governor issued a declaration under AS 26.23, stating that the outbreak of COVID-19 was occurring in the state because of widespread community transmission; and

WHEREAS, since the initial outbreak of COVID-19 in the state in March 2020, the effects have resulted in serious consequences for all residents of the state; and

WHEREAS the Senate recognizes that, because of local action, students throughout the state have been deprived of in-person learning, and the state has seen increased incidence of depression and other emotional harm in students as a result of school closures, as well as increased instances of child abuse and food insecurity; and

WHEREAS the Senate also recognizes that communities in the state have seen fit to impose lockdown orders, which have severely reduced economic activity in those communities, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs, the closure of many businesses, and significant economic harm to a large proportion of Alaskans in various economic sectors; and

WHEREAS it is the position of the Senate that a health care provider may not

administer a COVID-19 vaccine to an individual without first obtaining the informed consent of the individual or, if the individual is a minor child, of a parent or guardian of the minor child; and

WHEREAS the Senate supports that an individual or a parent or guardian of a minor child may object to the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine based on religious, medical, or other grounds, and that a person may not require an individual to provide justification or documentation to support the individual's decision to decline a COVID-19 vaccine or to decline a COVID-19 vaccine for a minor child; and

WHEREAS, partly because of the state's robust COVID-19 response efforts and the governor's leadership, the state currently has the third-lowest COVID-19 fatality rate in the United States; and

WHEREAS, because of diligent efforts, the state has one of the highest vaccination rates in the United States; and

WHEREAS the Senate acknowledges the state's transition from a disaster to a recovery phase and supports the reduction of mandates to carefully but fully reopen the state's economy, while safely protecting Alaskans; and

WHEREAS the governor's January 14, 2021, declaration is set to expire on February 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS there is insufficient time to allow the Alaska State Legislature to fully debate and determine the least restrictive means to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and pass legislation, instead of relying on additional emergency orders, while, at the same time, being certain that the state does not lose access to federal funding for programs important to Alaskans;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate, without waiving the authority of the legislature under AS 26.23.020(c) or 26.23.025(b), urges the governor to issue a new, narrowly defined declaration, not to exceed 30 days, to access funding and protect the health and safety of Alaskans.