

DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 12-33

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO ADOPT A WORKERS'
COMPENSATION MEDICAL FEE SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, in 2005 , the Legislature enacted AS 23.30.097 concerning fees for medical treatment and services, of which subsection (a) was intended to provide temporary cost control measures while a committee investigated and developed a more permanent solution; and

WHEREAS, unable to develop a permanent solution to Alaska's rising medical costs, and facing the prospect of no fee schedule at all, HB 13 was adopted in 2011 (codified in AS 23.30.097(a)(1)), tying workers' compensation medical payments to "usual, customary, and reasonable fees" (UCR); and

WHEREAS, workers' compensation rate increases have resulted, causing Alaskan employers to pay the highest rates in the country for workers' compensation coverage; and

WHEREAS, payments for medical expenses now make up 75% of the amount paid for workers' compensation claims in Alaska, and medical costs have increased approximately 46% for the same service due in part to in implementation of HB 13 according to studies by Alaska public entities; and

WHEREAS, research by the National Council on Compensation Insurance shows that states with workers' compensation fee schedules tied to UCR have significantly higher medical costs, and higher workers' compensation rates; and

WHEREAS, in November 2009 the Alaska Workers' Compensation Medical Review Committee found that "Alaska's UCR based fee schedule . . . should be discarded and a fee schedule utilizing a value based system should be adopted" with one or more conversion factors applied to allow fees to be higher than Medicare rates.

THEREFORE, the Denali Borough asks that the Legislature take action to adopt a workers' compensation medical fee schedule based upon a Resource Based Relative Value Scale method, as recommended by the Alaska Workers Compensation Medical Review Committee in 2009.

PASSED and APPROVED by the DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY this 12th day of December, 2012.



Clay Walker, Mayor Pro Tempore

ATTEST: 

Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
ABSENT: WEIBEL and CARLSON

