

Submitted by: Assembly Member Sweet
Prepared by: Assembly Member Sweet
For reading: April 11, 2023

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2023-XXX**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY
COMMENDING SENATORS SULLIVAN AND MURKOWSKI ON THEIR WORK
TO END TUBERCULOSIS NOW ACT.**

WHEREAS, more than a century has passed since the March 24, 1882, announcement by Robert Koch that the Mycobacterium Tuberculosis bacteria causes tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS, the disease still ranks as one of the world's greatest infectious disease threats, sickening over 10.5 million, and claiming 1.6 million lives in 2021 alone; and

WHEREAS, in the early- to mid-20th century, Alaska had some of the highest rates of TB morbidity and mortality ever recorded, and while much of the TB activity in Alaska today is a consequence of this legacy, part of it is a result of cases among the foreign-born; and

WHEREAS, 28% of the cases had a known epidemiological link to another active case, demonstrating the significance of recent airborne transmission; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Alaska continued to have the highest TB incidence rate in the United States, at 7.9 cases per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, around the world, including Anchorage and Alaska, but much more severely elsewhere, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted TB control by diverting limited public health resources, and further limiting access to health care, thereby leading to decreased levels of TB diagnosis, reporting, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Health Department TB Control Program Team continues to partner actively with colleagues; in the Alaska Section of Public Health Nursing; the Alaska State Public Health Laboratories; the Anchorage Health Department; and Alaska's medical and social services providers and institutions, pharmacies, and DOT and community health aides, in the management and prevention of TB disease including evaluation of identified contacts to infectious cases, treatment of people with both latent TB infection and active TB disease, as well as coordination of screening and follow-up for immigrant B-notifications; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly adopted AR No. 2023-80 to recognize and observe March 24 as World TB Day, and to raise local public awareness of the devastating health, social, and economic consequences of TB, and to recognize the need to step up efforts to end the TB epidemic, and the need to invest necessary resources to achieve the goals of ensuring equitable access to TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure, and the end of the TB epidemic, both locally and worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the United States has become the global leader in supporting humanity’s battle against TB, through scientific advances, and through diplomacy, participating, in 2018, in first ever U.N. High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis, and the W.H.O. Stop TB Partnership, its generous funding of a United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-administered bilateral TB control program in the highest burden countries, and through its leadership and contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria; and

WHEREAS, the late Alaska Representative Don Young was a recognized Congressional leader on the TB issue, and Alaska’s Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan have worked successfully to secure growing financial support for the TB programs of the USAID, and for the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund; and

WHEREAS, a bill entitled the “End TB Now Act of 2023” has been introduced in the 118th Congress, as S. 288 and H.R. 1776, which would legislatively strengthen the U.S. commitment to ending TB, enshrine bold interim goals, foster international cooperation, catalyze research and development, require accountability for positive health outcomes, and provide for necessary Congressional oversight;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly resolves and commends Alaska Senators Murkowski and Sullivan for their years of demonstrated wise and compassionate action in standing up for and supporting continued U.S. leadership and investment in the global fight against TB, both here at home and abroad, and calls upon them and new Alaska Representative Mary Peltola to continue this important work by cosponsoring the End TB Now Act, and by actively working through the annual federal appropriations process to assure that sufficient funds are made available to fulfill U.S. international commitments and to carry out and accelerate the vital work necessary to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to achieve bold but attainable progress towards ridding the world of the many-millennia-old scourge of Tuberculosis.

This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk