



Catholic Social Services

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3rd Avenue Resource &
Navigation Center

Brother Francis
Shelter

Clare House

Complex Care

Family Disability
Services

Homeless Family
Services

Refugee Assistance &
Immigration Services

Alaska Office
for Refugees

St. Francis House
Food Pantry

Supportive Family
Services

February 12, 2025

RE: Support for HB73 and SB76 – Complex Care Residential Homes

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express Catholic Social Services' (CSS) strong support for the Governor's HB73 and SB76, which propose the establishment of a new residential license type for complex care residential homes in Alaska.

CSS is a non-profit organization committed to supporting our community's most vulnerable members. Our services span a range of needs, including homelessness, behavioral health, case management, hunger relief, and services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

As operators of multiple shelters in Anchorage, we recognize the urgency for specialized housing options that can meet the complex needs of individuals. Many of the people we serve would greatly benefit from the types of housing proposed in HB73 and SB76.

Currently, we provide shelter to over 500 individuals daily through our programs, including Brother Francis Shelter, Clare House, Complex Care, and the 56th Avenue Shelter. These are not simply emergency shelters; they are spaces where our case managers work diligently to help individuals transition from homelessness to lasting stability.

Many of our clients exhibit behaviors that would qualify them for acceptance into the proposed complex care residential homes. These individuals face multiple barriers to accessing traditional housing and would greatly benefit from the 24-hour, small group, multi-disciplinary support provided in complex care residential home settings.

By providing specialized care and housing options outlined in HB73 and SB76, we can reduce both homelessness and recidivism, helping vulnerable Alaskans find stability while offering essential resources that enable our entire community to thrive.

I strongly urge you to support this crucial legislation.

Sincerely,
Robing Dempsey, CEO
Catholic Social Services