

April 20, 2017

RE: HB 57

Dear Finance Committee members,

Please do not cut the public health nursing budget any further.

It has already been reduced by 20% over the last 2 years.

It is an extremely important component of our state's health.

Alaska has one of the highest tuberculosis rates in the nation.

Regarding sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), we are the highest.

Recently, there has been an upswing in measles and whooping cough because people have not been vaccinated.

Our state needs a consistent method available state-wide to get vaccinations and treatment to everyone.

Every person that is not vaccinated or treated increases the risk to us all.

Public health nursing does not duplicate primary care and is not confined within the walls of a clinic.

It reaches individuals and families through their homes, schools and workplaces.

This service is so important, a state income tax should be considered in order to support it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Catherine Muse