



AADD
ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
P.O. Box 241742
Anchorage, Alaska 99524

To facilitate a united provider voice for best practices, advocacy, partnerships and networking.

April 5, 2018

Dear Representative Claman,

AADD, the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, is the professional association that represents the voice of forty seven organizations in Alaska that provide home and community based services to individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Association is a strong supporter of HB 336 on Supportive Decision-Making Agreements.

AADD is pleased to be involved with WINGS (Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders) which is a valuable project working on ways to improve our state's guardianship system. The group recognizes the difficulty Alaska faces with the high percentage of full guardianships awarded in Alaska compared to other states. Supported Decision Making Agreements (SDMA) is one of the alternatives that can support individuals that experience developmental disabilities to direct their lives and services. SMDA's provide a legal written framework for decision making in which a vulnerable adult may select persons of his or her own choosing to assist in life choices where decisions are complex for that individual. We all turn to experts in fields where we lack expertise such as taxes, health, legal affairs. HB 336 provides a legal framework for this commonplace practice for individuals who experience disabilities but who can and want to make decision about their own life.

AADD is grateful for leadership from Representative Millett in championing this bill. We believe that individuals who experience developmental disabilities will benefit from SMDA in supporting their choices and rights to direct their services. We look forward to the passage, enactment and implementation of SMDA in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Lizette Stiehr
Executive Director
AADD