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Senators Stedman, Micciche, Ellis, Kelly, and Meyer
Senate Health and Social Services Committee
28th Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

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Honorable Senators:

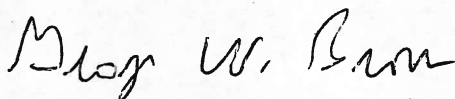
Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB 169 to assure effective vaccines will continue to be available for all Alaska citizens, especially children who are our real future. Thank you for your public service, a somber load where your decisions will guide our public future and where competing voices are respectfully heard as you have to make responsible decisions.

I am unable to speak in person for the Friday, February 21 hearing. Last year, you listened carefully as Dr. Hurlbert and I emphasized our personal 1960's – 1980's experiences of treating many children suffering severe infectious illnesses which are now fully preventable with current immunization resources. Such is an undeniable investment in the future health of our state. The savings in dollar costs and personal agony are magnified many times for the program costs. Establishing a lasting system which assures public and private partnership is a wise choice for which you will look back on your public service career with satisfaction.

As one Alaska citizen, I personally will be happy to pay state tax to underwrite such an investment if that becomes clearly necessary. Next to assuring access to public education for all Alaska children, which is the bed rock support of citizen guided democracy, preventing unnecessary infectious illnesses must remain our top priority.

As Senators Giessel's and French's leadership moves this bill through this session, I will follow its progress and do my best to testify in person as needed.

Respectfully,



George W. Brown, MD