

From: Atwood, Jesse W [<mailto:Jesse.Atwood@providence.org>]
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 3:48 PM
To: Jane Conway
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 169

Ms. Conway,

My name is Jesse Atwood. I am a Pediatrician, practicing in the Matsu Valley at Providence Matanuska Health Care Clinic. I have been practicing pediatrics for over 16 years, and have done extensive personal research into vaccines, their side effects, and their benefits. After having given thousands of vaccines to children over the years, and seeing the beneficial results of widespread immunization to both the individual, and society collectively, I am thoroughly convinced that the benefits of vaccines FAR outweigh any perceived or potential risks. It also seems consistent that some financial / governmental support to promote vaccinations improves vaccination rates, and improves the overall health of our communities, likely paying financial dividends down the road. But regardless of any financial benefits, there is almost no medical advancement in the history of the world that has had a greater impact in reducing suffering and death than what immunization programs have achieved. The numbers of people who suffered and even died from many / most of the diseases we vaccinate for, compared to the numbers suffering or dying from these diseases since the individual vaccines were approved, is staggering. Why wouldn't we want to promote one of the most successful advancements in the history of mankind?

To that end, I am writing to ask that you support in any way possible Senate Bill 169, to establish a vaccine assessment account, and implement a self-sustaining vaccine financing solution that has been implemented in other states, to preserve universal access to state-supplied vaccines. As a pediatrician, I feel that this bill provides for a more efficient cost-effective vaccination system, and reduces the ever increasing administrative burden for health care providers, a burden that can and will eventually result in a deterrent to providing vaccinations for some. I also feel that this bill will increase access to vaccines for all Alaskans, and serve to improve our health and well-being as a state and as a community.

I thank you for your service to our State and our community, and for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Jesse Atwood MD

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