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Date: February 12, 2014 at 3:25:09 PM AKST

To: <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: Vaccine Assessment Bill

Dear Senator Giessel:

Thanks so much for your interest in Senate Bill 169. As a pediatrician in Anchorage, I have seen firsthand many of the diseases that are vaccine-preventable. I've also struggled to continue to provide vaccines at my small private practice, due to the difficult requirements that we keep duplicate stocks of these expensive vaccines for differently insured patients. It's my understanding that the proposed bill will end up costing everyone less money by doing away with multiple "layers" of bureaucratic requirements and paperwork. I believe that if this bill becomes law, small practices like my own will be more likely to continue offering vaccines to our patients. This increased availability translates into higher vaccination rates. Children will be healthier (and their parents will miss less work). Employers will pay less for insurance (polio vaccine is much cheaper than treating a case of polio!); and since many children are insured directly or indirectly by state funds, Alaska will save money, too.

I strongly encourage you to support this bill.

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Jacob, M.D.