

Senator Giessel and Ms. Conway:

I am writing to strongly support the adoption of Senate Bill 169 designed to develop a vaccine assessment account providing a sustainable vaccine financing solution for Alaska. One of the most beneficial public health achievements of mankind has been the use of immunizations to prevent life threatening illnesses.

There is abundant evidence of the safety, efficacy, cost effectiveness and success of this effort. However the cost of vaccines and the ease of providing them to patients has been a worsening burden over time and as a result Alaska's immunization levels and health care costs related to vaccine preventable diseases are rising.

Vaccine assessment accounts have been shown in other states to relieve the problems related to increased costs and help to increase immunization rates. I support Senate Bill 169 for these reasons.

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