

Please support S.B. 169 re-establishing the universal vaccination program. Currently we keep 2 sets of vaccines on hand at our small non profit clinic. One set for vaccine eligible children obtained from the state, and one set for children with private insurance obtained from a private supplier. This can be confusing. To avoid the loss that comes with expiration of very expensive vaccines we keep only small amounts of state and private vaccines on hand. There is a mechanism in place to remedy mistakes however I am finding that having to keep 2 separate supplies contributes to waste of both supplies. Additionally we are unable to keep all of the available state vaccines because I do not want them to be wasted. Some of the purchased vaccines are available only in lots of 10. We purchase the expensive vaccines from a local pharmacy in small lots to avoid waste. This increases our costs for each vaccine and additionally we must pay a courier to pick up the vaccines in Anchorage. I am assuming that other small and rural clinics face the same problems.

S. B. 169 funds vaccines through contributions from insurers, groups, etc. SOA buys the vaccine, using their lowest cost ability through CDC. . There will be no increase in the cost to the SOA over the cost of the current program. Our clinicians will be spending their time educating parents and vaccinating children instead of sorting out who gets which vaccines. Many parents continue to believe that MMR's cause autism and that vaccines are "toxic" and "foreign substances". Having all the vaccines available for children allows us to seize the moment to have a factual dialogue with parents and get their children vaccinated. S.B. 169 would relieve the burden of keeping track of double sets of vaccines for Alaska children resulting in improved vaccination rates for all our children.

Sincerely,
Kerry Dorius RN, MS, ANP
Executive Director Girdwood Health Clinic.