

**From:** "alaskacares ." <afmc4045@gmail.com>

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**To:** <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Vaccines

Senator Cathy Giessel;

I am writing in support of your universal vaccination program for children and adults. It is very confusing as a practitioner to try and keep two separate lots of vaccines one from the state for the poor and a separate set of vaccines I purchase for those who are insured ie" the rich" when income between the two groups is often similar. The volume of immunizations was too low in our office to support two sets of vaccines so I made a decision recently to stop providing vaccines for children altogether because it was too expensive and time consuming to have two separate accounting systems. There ended up being too much waste as vaccines cost me over \$5000.00 last year alone and they have short expiration dates.

I find that many people are not getting their shingles vaccine because of expense, and have seen several cases of shingles recently. I have also seen cases of pertussis, flu, and pneumonia. At one time we had a universal immunization program here in Alaska for both adults and children. I would like to see this again as I find people on Medicaid are getting immunized better than other children because of cost barriers re immunizations. Our tax dollars should be used to benefit all and not just a few that state has designated as poor as this is very discriminatory and prevents everyone from having access to the vaccines that all would benefit from obtaining.

Pertussis and pneumonia are debilitating diseases in adults that can lead to chronic respiratory problems, hospitalization and death. I would like to see more adults vaccinated to help prevent these diseases and believe your legislation would help achieve this goal. I like the Alaska vaccine program and would like to see it continue for both adults and children. Let me know how we can work together to get this legislation passed.

Ilona Farr MD