



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of  
Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

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March 24, 2013

Representative Mia Costello  
Alaska Capitol, Room 501  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Support for HB 134, Medicaid Payment for Mediset Prescription Packaging

Dear Representative Costello:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) supports HB 134, a bill sponsored by you, requiring Medicaid reimbursement for scheduled unit dose prescription drug and dispensing services for specified recipients. Based on our understanding, the goal of this legislation is to put within statute a "mediset" medication management service to ensure that this service continues to be offered in Alaska to eligible persons.

"Mediset" packaging of prescription medications, combined with medication management and regular follow-up with a patient's health care provider, have been shown to improve medication adherence which is particularly important for older persons with multiple chronic conditions who are on complicated medication regimes. *Blister-pack packaging* enhances medication management for persons residing in assisted living and institutional settings and reduces medication error for seniors living independently taking medications on their own. By improving patient adherence to medications, the mediset program is cost-effective in promoting the health and safety of elderly Alaskans, and all Alaskans on prescription medications, reducing the need for higher cost health care.

While ACoA supports the intent of the Mediset program to improve medication management, we are concerned about the potential impact to small pharmacies being eligible for Medicaid reimbursement as the result of this legislation. We believe these concerns could be addressed through regulation.

Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director (465-4879 or [denise.daniello@alaska.gov](mailto:denise.daniello@alaska.gov)) should you require additional information about our position. Thank you for sponsoring this legislation to improve medication adherence which is integral to the health and well-being of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paula Pawlowski in blue ink.

Paula Pawlowski  
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Denise Daniello in blue ink.

Denise Daniello  
Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Aging