



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Health & Social Services

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
& SPECIAL EDUCATION
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March 22, 2013

The Honorable Mia Costello
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 134

Dear Representative Costello:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 134, which would require Medicaid payment for scheduled unit dose prescription drug packaging and dispensing services, such as medisets, for specified recipients, including those individuals with disabilities. As you know, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the Council) advocates for change that improves the lives of individuals with disabilities.

One of the roles of the Council is to serve as Alaska's State Council on Developmental Disabilities to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities receive the services and supports that they need to be safe and healthy in their communities. The Council strongly supports the passage of HB 134, as we believe that both the mediset and unit dose provisions of the bill will help to maintain the health and safety of individuals with disabilities (as well as the elderly) while following the medication regimen that is prescribed by their medical provider.

Individuals with developmental disabilities often have many medications that are needed throughout the day. When these individuals reside in a group home setting, their medication regimens are in the hands of the caregivers of that particular home. Oftentimes more than one caregiver has the responsibility of carrying out the medication regimens of several individuals throughout the day. A medistat allows caregivers to more easily follow the prescribed medication regimens so that they may administer medications to the right individual, at the right time and in the right dosage. The use of medisets greatly reduces medication errors and issues with non-compliance, which in turn, ensures the health and safety of individuals with disabilities.

Again, the Council wholeheartedly supports the passage of HB 134, which allows individuals with disabilities to remain safely supported in their communities where they belong. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Gebhart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "G".

Eric Gebhart
Chair