



February 2, 2016

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) is writing this letter in support of SB72 – also known as the CARE Act. As you know, the act helps to ensure that family members who are assisting their loved one after being discharged from a hospital will receive the proper training on how to help with their loved one's healing process. ASHNHA supports efforts to reduce patient readmissions to a hospital and give family caregivers the confidence to handle the stress that can come with in-home caregiving.

Alaska hospitals are actively pursuing a combination of strategies to reduce readmissions through improved care management. As a part of every patient's discharge assessment, the hospital works to determine who will be involved in ongoing care and to include that individual in transition planning and information about medications and follow-up care. Integrating CARE Act requirements into existing hospital discharge policies will allow hospitals to strengthen their involvement of family caregivers while continuing to meet rigorous CMS conditions of participation.

ASHNHA appreciates your work and the work of AARP to bring consistency to existing efforts to reduce readmissions and involve caregivers. Senate Bill 72 will help ensure patients across Alaska are discharged with a plan that meets their needs and the abilities of their caregiver without limiting innovation or adding significant burden on providers.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support this legislation moving forward.

Sincerely,

Becky Hultberg
President/CEO