



# Alaska Healthcare TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

## FROM PROJECT TO POLICY

Since 2018, the Alaska Transformation Healthcare Project has been working to transform Alaska's healthcare system. Payers, providers, policymakers, and patient advocates came together to assess Alaska's current system and identify opportunities to improve access and affordability for all Alaskans. This public-private Project was funded by the State of Alaska, Rasmuson Foundation, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and the Mat-Su Health Foundation.

The Project's recommendations have been incorporated into new legislation that if passed, will truly transform Alaska's healthcare system by establishing the Alaska Healthcare Transformation Corporation to develop and manage an all-payer claims database to guide healthcare policy and decisions for generations to come.

## LEGISLATION AT-A-GLANCE

**TITLE:** An Act establishing the Alaska Healthcare Transformation Corporation; relating to an all-payer claims database; and providing for an effective date.

**SPONSOR:** Representative Ivy Spohnholz

### FINDINGS & INTENT:

- 1 Already high healthcare costs for Alaskans continue to increase at an alarming rate compared to other states.
- 2 Reasonable access to health care is critical for all Alaskans and is an economic driver essential to Alaska's economy.
- 3 Understanding the underlying cost drivers and market pressures of Alaska's high cost of care is essential to developing policies and solutions.
- 4 To date, policymakers have not had the data to attain a comprehensive understanding of these contributing factors.
- 5 Establishing an all-payer claims database would finally provide the critical information needed to understand and transform Alaska's health care system.
- 6 Establishing the Alaska Healthcare Transformation Corporation would create an independent legal authority to manage the all-payer claims database and provide the means to develop healthcare policies that will improve access and affordability for Alaskans.

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## 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**COMPLETED** the background research for the Project through the contractor NORC at the University of Chicago. Produced four reports:

**Alaska Historical Project Scan.** Identified and assessed selected delivery system reform experiments in Alaska over the past decade (2008 to the present), with priority to characterizing regional innovation within the state.

**Alaska Studies–Meta-Analysis.** Identified and assessed a group of Alaska-focused reports and studies issued over the past decade (2008 to the present) that concern health reform.

**National Scan.** Developed case studies for selected states where delivery system reform relevant to Alaska’s five key topics of interest offers lessons for prospective innovation.

**Drivers of Health Care Costs and Spend in Alaska.** Reviewed health care spending in the state and provided an assessment of the data available to support a fine-grained analysis of cost drivers. Proposed recommendations of options for reforms that would likely reduce costs.

### KEY FINDINGS:

Alaskans have spent tremendous time, energy, and commitment studying healthcare issues in the state with very few examples for evidence based practices that can be generalized to larger populations or used to increase access to high quality healthcare at sustainable costs.

Other states further on the path towards reforming their healthcare systems have begun by having a clear understanding of their healthcare claims information. Alaska does not have a centralized repository for healthcare claims data which has made it difficult for us to truly analyze the healthcare cost drivers and utilization patterns.

The collection and analysis of multi-payer health data, inclusive of both claims and quality information, will play a vital role in helping to fill critical information gaps, promote healthcare transparency initiatives, and provide policymakers with access to accurate data to drive healthcare policy.

### DEVELOPED:

Details, parameters, and building consensus around the collection of cost and quality data and ensuring sufficient analytic capacity to effectively analyze and use the data.

Multi-payer goals for value-based payment

The structure and responsibilities of the leadership governance

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