

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ZACK FIELDS

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## CSHB 86 ver U Sponsor Statement

Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) is the State of Alaska's main treatment center for behavioral health and mental illness. API plays an essential role in our state's mental health and public safety infrastructure.

Alaskans who work at API have testified that they are driven by public service, and that continuing state management of API is essential for the institution to fulfill its mission.

Mental health is a public trust, and it should remain rightfully the duty of the State of Alaska to exercise care over it when it involves involuntary admittance. This bill continue public management of our mental health system and ensure that the interests of the patient are paramount in a public process, recognizing the risks of outsourcing this care.