

Alaska State Medical Association

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March 17, 2021

The Honorable Michael Dunleavy
Governor, State of Alaska
Alaska State Capitol Building
Third Floor
Juneau, AK 99801

Submitted via email: miles.baker@alaska.gov

RE: HB 113 & SB 93 “An Act relating to the establishment of an all-payer health claims database”

Dear Governor:

The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) represents physicians statewide and is primarily concerned with the health of all Alaskans.

ASMA supports House Bill 113 and Senate Bill 93, the State’s effort to establish an All-Payer Claims Database (APCD).

Over half of the states currently have some form of an APCD and recently passed federal legislation incentivizes the further adoption and use. Healthcare transparency that provides accurate and comprehensive information that is easily accessible can provide policy makers with information they need to understand quality, utilization and healthcare costs in Alaska, information for providers to benchmark their reimbursements utilization and quality metrics against peers to understand if they are outliers within the system, and information to patients on quality metrics and cost data to potentially use in their personal decisions.

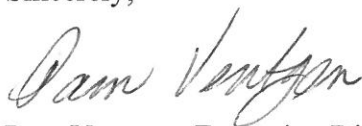
While ASMA supports transparency in healthcare we believe it is imperative that it provide actionable information. We consider information to be actionable if it provides the user with accurate timely information they can easily access and readily use to make informed decisions. We believe an APCD has the potential to do this if a well thought out implementation strategy is executed, and ongoing support is sufficient to maintain the quality of the database.

We also commend the incorporation of quality analysis into the APCD. Creating a system that looks solely at cost without evaluating quality and utilization is irresponsible and counterproductive to the purpose of an APCD, developing good healthcare policy.

In reviewing other states' implementation of APCD one of the consistent key learnings is to ensure stakeholders are engaged throughout the process of design and implementation and that the public interface be intuitive and easy to use. ASMA supports the placement of responsibility with the Division of Insurance who we believe has a proven track record of working with stakeholders.

Please let me know if we can further discuss this or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pam Ventgen".

Pam Ventgen, Executive Director
Alaska State Medical Association

cc: Director Lori Wing-Heier, Division of Insurance