



March 24, 2021

Commissioner Adam Crum  
Department of Health and Social Services  
3601 C Street, Suite 902  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Commissioner Crum:

Alaska Regional Hospital supports HB 103, an act relating to house rules for assisted living homes. HB 103 will bring Alaska into compliance with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) settings final rule.

The settings rule provides for autonomy, community integration, and independence in making life choices for individuals with disabilities while addressing the problem of institutional-like settings. In addition to safeguarding the privacy, freedom, and dignity of individuals with disabilities residing in assisted living homes, HB 103 is necessary to align Alaska law with federal regulations and for the State of Alaska to continue receiving federal reimbursement for waiver services.

Assisted living homes are a crucial part of Alaska's health care continuum. Waiver programs serve more than 4,700 Alaskans who meet an institutional level of care but instead receive care in the home or community. At times, we care for patients at Alaska Regional Hospital who no longer need an acute level of care offered by hospitals but are not able to return home. Waiver programs provide the opportunity for Alaskans to receive care in their community, close to loved ones, friends, and favorite community offerings.

HB103 takes steps to ensure independence and autonomy for Alaskans served by waivers and aligns state regulations with federal requirements. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Opsut  
Chief Executive Officer