

Jody Simpson

From: Bjudd Travel [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Extension of COVID Emergency Order

Honorable Senator Wilson,

To assure the health and safety of Alaskan citizens I strongly urge extension of the Covid -19 Emergency orders.

Thank you,

Rebecca Judd

[REDACTED]
Anchorage

Sent from the iRoad
Please excuse typos.

"I go to Nature to be soothed, and to have my senses put in order. "
– John Burroughs

Jody Simpson

From: Margo Waring [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB 56

I am writing to urge you to vote to extend the Disaster Declaration. The pandemic is far from over in Alaska and we need to stay vigilant in order to be safe, including mask wearing, social distancing and limited capacity in certain establishments.

I am hoping in time we can all be vaccinated and put these terrible times behind us, but this is not yet the time.

Margo Waring
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

3760 Poplar Street
P.O. Box 196604
Anchorage, AK 99508
t (907) 562 2211
www.providence.org/alaska



Feb. 2, 2021

Senator David Wilson
Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Committee
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Providence Supports SB 56

Dear Senator Wilson:

As CEO of Providence Health & Services Alaska, I am writing in strong support of the extension of the Alaska Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration, as authorized by SB 56.

Roughly one year ago, the first COVID-19 patient in the United States was treated at a Providence hospital in Washington. Providence caregivers have worked tirelessly to care for our families, friends, neighbors, and communities during this once-in-a-generation pandemic. I am humbled by the countless stories of amazing sacrifice, compassion, and heroism displayed by our caregivers and in our community this year. As we see promising rates of vaccinations in Alaska, we can finally look toward positive days ahead. However, we cannot lose site of the policies that will take us there.

The COVID-19 response has required the health care community to act nimbly and creatively while delivering care and protecting our most vulnerable patients. The state and federal government acted swiftly during the beginning months of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide hospitals and the health care community with tools necessary to deliver care and protect public health. This partnership continues to save lives.

The state's Public Health Emergency Disaster Declaration is the foundation for the framework that allows hospitals and providers to partner with the state and federal government to access waivers, flexibilities, and disaster relief. Some examples of partnerships that are made possible because of the state emergency declaration include¹:

- Waiving physical premises and other site-specific requirements, allowing hospitals to partner on off-site COVID-19 testing and alternative care sites.
- Requiring state-regulated insurers to waive cost shares and onerous prior authorizations for COVID-19 testing and treatment.
- Monitoring COVID-19 patients safely from their homes, thereby augmenting critical capacity, reducing additional potential exposures, and the need for hospitalizations.
- Providing telehealth for vulnerable Medicare patients without a prior physical examination.

¹ These examples are not included directly in the State Disaster Public Health Emergency Declaration but are made possible because of the declaration.

- Expediting the professional licensure and renewal process, allowing physicians and nurses to work across state lines, providing relief during times of critical workforce shortages.
- Allowing businesses to manufacture and distribute PPE and the ability for hospitals to safely sanitize existing supplies during times of extreme shortages.
- Allowing Alaskans with existing serious health conditions to maintain their out-of-state provider relationships through phone and telehealth, while travel restrictions make in-person visits impossible.
- Increased federal aid, including the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) and CARES Act funding.

The pandemic has brought dual health and economic impacts and many Alaskans are also financially struggling. This is evident by the increased demand on social service organizations that provide to those in need. Without a state disaster declaration in place, many of these organizations will not be able to access critical federal funding for food and housing insecurity. We have been monitoring a similar discussion in Wisconsin, whose legislative budget office estimated a monthly loss of \$49 million in federal food aid without a state disaster declaration.

We appreciate Governor Dunleavy for introducing SB 56 and we thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. It has been a long year with many sacrifices, and we can't falter in our response and resolve now. Please pass SB 56 as soon as possible, allowing all of us to continue caring for Alaskans in partnership and with the best tools available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Simmons', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Preston M. Simmons, DSc. FACHE
Chief Executive
Providence Health & Services Alaska

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Our Culture Defines Us. Our Values Inspire Us. Our People Are Our Future.

February 4, 2021

Honorable David S. Wilson
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

Via email to Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Wilson,

I am writing to express Ahtna, Incorporated's support for Senate Bill 56 to extend the Governor's January 15, 2021 declaration of a public health disaster emergency. Alaska Natives and all rural Alaskans have been disproportionately impacted by this pandemic. The extension of the Governor's disaster declaration is paramount for the continuation of key relief services in the Ahtna region and all rural Alaska.

We ask that you, and the other distinguished members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee, please support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Michelle Anderson
President

cc: Hon. Mia Costello, Senator
Hon. Shelley Hughes, Senator
Hon. Lora Reinbold, Senator
Hon. Tom Begich, Senator
Hon. Mike Dunleavy, Governor
via John Moller, Policy Advisor

Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov
Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov
Senator.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov
Senator.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov

John.Moller@alaska.gov

www.ahtna.com

Jody Simpson

From: Jeffrey Demain, MD <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Extension of emergency declaration

Dear Representative Wilson,

I understand a vote is coming up for extension of the Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration. It is absolutely necessary that the emergency declaration be extended because our continued vaccination process depends on it.

I am writing on behalf of our group of 5 Allergist Immunologists at Providence Alaska Medical Center.

We appreciate your support and all you do for our fellow Alaskans.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey G Demain, MD, FAAP, FAAAAI, FAAAAI
Founder, Allergy Asthma & Immunology Center of Alaska
Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Washington
Affiliate Professor, WWAMI School of Medical Education, University of Alaska, Anchorage

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Jody Simpson

From: Steven Compton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Covid extension

Dear Senator Wilson-

I'm writing on behalf of the cardiology community in Alaska to encourage extension of the emergency rules regarding Covid management.

We are excited to see the recent downturn in cases but the battle is far from over. This morning I admitted another Covid patient with life-threatening cardiac manifestations. It alarms me that most of our vulnerable patient population remain unvaccinated.

Please feel free to call me at [REDACTED] if you have specific questions. Thank you for your service.

Steven Compton, MD, FACP, FACC, FHRS
President, Alaska Heart Institute
Alaska Governor, American College of Cardiology

Jody Simpson

From: Mary Ann Foland <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 10:48 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: SB56

I am a Family Physician in Anchorage. I have had the privilege of taking care of Alaskan patients for over 40 years. I strongly support SB56 continuing the emergency declaration to protect our patients. I understand our vaccine allocation depends on this . Thank you for your consideration Mary Ann Foland MD.

Jody Simpson

From: Hale Loofbourrow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 10:55 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Extend the Emergency Declaration

Dr. Senator Wildon,

As a Doctor caring for Covid patients, I think it is in the best interest of the state to extend the emergency declaration and approve SB 56

Thank you,
Hale Loofbourrow, MD

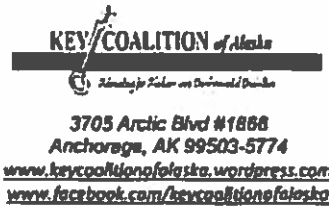
Jody Simpson

From: Martha Massey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Emergency Declaration Expiration

Dear Senator Wilson,

I am urging you to extend the emergency declaration put in place by the governor regarding Covid 19. The state of Alaska is making great progress in getting the vaccines to its citizens but it can't be done if we don't continue to show that we take this pandemic seriously. By removing this declaration it will impede our supply of future vaccines and this is something we don't want to do. Right now we are being praised by other state's Departments of Health for how we have been able to vaccinate our populations. Please don't put us at the bottom of this list for receiving the vaccine because our state doesn't take COVID 19 seriously. I implore you to fight for your fellow Alaskans in getting this order extended and letting municipalities decide how to implement any precautions but please don't risk our future supply shipments.

Martha H Massey



February 3, 2021

Senator David Wilson
Senate Health and Social Services Committee Chair
P O Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

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

Re: Public Comments on SB56 Extension of Alaska's Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration

The Key Coalition of Alaska, representing a large coalition across the state of Alaska made up of people experiencing disabilities, their family members, and providers of service is adding our collective voice to urge the adoption of SB 56 to extend Alaska's Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration.

The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, and yet there is much to be grateful for, as Alaska has not experienced the mortality rates of people experiencing disabilities other states have witnessed. As frontline staff and those living in assisted living homes get access to vaccinations there is a glimmer of hope growing.

However, without the extension of the declaration and the access to federal funding and approved adaptations of services will further erode the potential of recovery and further restrict people with disabilities. It is critical flexibilities available through public health emergency declarations providing alternate service delivery modalities (telehealth, telemedicine), regulatory extensions (professional and occupational licensing), and travel considerations necessary to protect our native communities have enabled our service providers to remain as active partners in our statewide mitigation efforts are maintained through the declaration extension.

The Appendix K waivers approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and related provisions are critical to maintaining essential supports under pandemic (and pandemic recovery) conditions. Alignment of the Federal and State approval is critical as the "blanket waivers" by CMS and SB241 provisions are renewed or extended throughout 2021.

We believe that this Act is essential for our state to recover its freedoms and economy, giving disability support providers as much flexibility as possible to adapt to rapidly changing challenges in this pandemic recovery year.

We strongly urge the HSS Committee to unanimously approve SB56 to extend the public health disaster declaration through September 30, 2021 for the benefit of our coalition members.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Girault".

Michele Girault
Board Vice-President
The Key Coalition of Alaska