



The Honorable Chair Kreiss-Tomkins
Chairman
House State Affairs Committee
Via Email: House.State.Affairs@akleg.gov

Re: HB 103 Regarding Assisted Living Homes: House Rules

Dear Chairman Kreiss-Tomkins,

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 103 on behalf of All Ways Caring. All Ways Caring is a Medicaid-funded service provider operating Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) in Homer, Soldotna and Wasilla. Our organization provides services to individuals who qualify for Medicaid and who opt to receive these services in a home and community-based setting. In addition to Assisted Living, All Ways Caring provides in-home personal care supports through Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver programs and the Community First Choice program. In total, All Ways Caring serves nearly five hundred individuals and employs more than six hundred direct care workers and administrative staff across the state.

All Ways Caring supports the intent of HB 103 to bring ALF House Rules, and the operations of Assisted Living Homes generally, in line with the federal Home and Community Based Settings (HCBS) Rule. This works to ensure that Medicaid-funded HCBS programs offer people with disabilities the opportunity to live, work and receive services in integrated, community settings. If passed, this bill moves the state of Alaska one step closer to full implementation of the HCBS Settings Rule by codifying HCBS Settings compliance standards for ALF providers.

Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) has been working with providers to bring ALF care settings across the state into compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule for some time. At All Ways Caring, we operate our ALF settings in alignment with the HCBS Settings Rule and will continue to do so moving forward.

I may be reached at the contact information below if you have any additional questions or comments. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Phil Schwarz
State Director – Alaska
1400 W Benson Blvd Ste 200
Anchorage, AK 99503
913-213-8234 cell
Phil.Schwarz@allwayscaring.com

cc: Members of the House State Affairs Committee