**From:** anamariaholiday@gmail.com
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services
**Subject:** Bill SB 124 ( Mental health facilities and meds)
**Date:** Tuesday, May 04, 2021 3:44:08 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

My name is Mariana Nelson.
I do NOT support unconstitutional and potentially disastrous Bill SB 124.
Because this is government and medical overreach and dangerous.

I do not consent.

Sincerely,
Mariana Nelson

**From:** Kelly Grace Fishler
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services
**Subject:** SB 124 opposing public testimony
**Date:** Tuesday, May 04, 2021 2:08:41 PM

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Dear HSS Committee,

I appreciate the care you take to ensure that bills have the proper amendments and scope/authority to accomplish their stated objective. SB 124 concerns me because it has so many gray areas, and has no differing protocols for the treatment of children or (known) mentally disabled individuals. Not only that, it has no mention of parental notification of commitment, consent for treatment, and for too limited informed consent of the patient. This bill is woefully ambiguous in how it attempts to assist Alaskans with mental health obstacles and this will potentially create more heartache and problems than it is able to solve. There should be a smaller and slower rollout of facilities than what is stated in the fiscal notes, because building these so quickly leaves insufficient time for improvement and problem solving. This bill has good intentions, but it's not ready yet. Please don't pass it out of committee.

Respectfully,
Kelly Fishler

**From:** Mark Frazure
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services
**Subject:** SB 124
**Date:** Tuesday, May 04, 2021 7:08:27 PM

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I have been reading and trying to understand this bill SB124. The more I read it the more it sounds like what our grandfathers and fathers fought against in past wars so we could live free in this country.

To me it sounds like what Adolf Hitler did when taking away the rights of the Jews and there rights. No one has the right to do this to the American people or any people. We have the right to control our own lives, body's minds and there must be consent to inflict this kind of Evil onto someone.

We have civil liberties and constitutional rights as citizens of Alaska and it concerns me greatly with what you are trying to do!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Sheri Higbee
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services
**Subject:** No to HB124
**Date:** Tuesday, May 04, 2021 1:21:38 PM

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Dear Senators
Please vote no to this very dangerous bill.
You should never be able to administer drugs to ANYONE for ANY reason without informed consent. Another bill taking away the rights of citizens and putting in the hands of a subjective governmental employee without proof of evidence
I vote NO.

Sheri Higbee

Sent from my iPhone

NAMI Alaska
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Affiliates in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and North Slope
Serving all of Alaska

April 27, 2021

Senator David Wilson, Chair
Senate Health and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 124 - "An Act relating to subacute mental health facilities."

Dear Senator Wilson,

The board of NAMI Alaska supports SB 124, "An Act relating to admission to and detention at a subacute mental health facility." This legislation is part of the overall continuum of care in behavioral health crisis response services, particularly at the appropriate lower levels of care.

Currently, Alaska primarily relies upon law enforcement, EMS, and hospital emergency rooms to serve people in behavioral health crisis, and most communities do not have the appropriate facilities and services where officers can take people to receive appropriate care.

This legislation will allow Alaska to more fully implement proven crisis response improvements, including the nationally recognized *Crisis Now* model, by allowing first responders to bring an individual in crisis to a low to no barrier or "no wrong door" crisis stabilization center instead of an emergency room.

This new approach to addressing mental health crises follows the national guidelines for behavioral Health Crisis Care using best practices endorsed by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), US Department of Health and Human Services. These guidelines were developed on the experience of veteran crisis system leaders and administrators as well as the individuals and families who have relied on these supports on their worst days. They are science-based, real-world tested best-practice guidance to the behavioral health field.

We applaud the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for their thorough analysis and consideration of the best framework suited for Alaska. While the first implementations will be in Anchorage, Fairbanks and the MatSu, it will be important to consider the needs and requirements of the rural communities throughout the state in the future.

We look forward to the continuing discussions about the *Crisis Now* initiative and final passage of this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Ann Ringstad
Executive Director
NAMI Alaska

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(907)277-1300 • Fax (907)277-8456 • alaskanami@gmail.com

**NAMI Alaska** (National Alliance for Mental Illness) is the statewide umbrella organization for Alaska's four local and regional **NAMI** affiliates in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and the North Slope. We provide education, support, advocacy, and public awareness so that all individuals affected by mental illness can build better lives. As per our Public Policy Platform, NAMI Alaska supports efforts by policymakers, and behavioral health stakeholders in working toward a coordinated and integrated system of care that supports prevention, intervention and wellness for the entire family.