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Andrew Beane | Vice President
Shaine Truscott | Vice President
Tangie Webb | Vice President

March 21, 2022.

**House Finance Committee
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801**

RE: HB 265 Support

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

SEIU 775 is writing to support HB 265/SB 175 – Telehealth. Our union represents more than 50,000 caregivers who provide in-home care to seniors and people with disabilities in Washington and Montana. Over the last year, we've spent significant time with caregivers in Alaska learning about their experiences. We've heard from hundreds trying to help their clients access the care they need. Throughout the pandemic, this has become even more difficult to navigate, and thus, telehealth has become an important tool in making healthcare more accessible.

We wholeheartedly support legislation that allows Alaskans to live independently while remaining in their homes and communities. Telehealth expansions benefit people with disabilities, seniors, and their caregivers, many of whom require additional support in accessing health care. They are also likely to require regular trips to medical hubs, which are expensive and time-consuming to reach.

SEIU 775 represents a workforce that has sought to protect the most vulnerable from COVID-19—the elderly and those with disabilities. These populations have faced countless additional hurdles throughout the pandemic. Access to Telehealth has made some of these challenges manageable. We support making these emergency changes permanent and increasing their availability throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Beane", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Andrew Beane
Vice-President
SEIU 775**

**SEIU 775
215 Columbia Street | Seattle, WA 98104**

Member Resource Center 1.866.371.3200 | www.seiu775.org

Our mission is to unite the strength of all working people and our families, to improve our lives and lead the way to a more just and humane world.