

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Forrest Dunbar
Chairman, Senate Health and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 205
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 76 - Establishing Complex Care Residential Homes

Dear Chairman Dunbar,

On behalf of Central Peninsula Hospital (CPH), I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 76 requested by Governor Dunleavy to establish a new health facility license type for complex care residential homes. As a 49-bed acute care hospital serving the Kenai Peninsula, we recognize the critical need for additional care options for individuals with complex medical, behavioral, or disability-related needs.

Acute care hospitals like CPH often serve patients whose needs would be more appropriately met in a lower-cost, long-term care setting, but the lack of available alternatives frequently forces prolonged hospital stays. This legislation represents an important step in addressing that gap by creating a new model of care better suited to these patients while also alleviating the strain on hospital resources including our emergency department.

By authorizing the Department of Health to license and regulate complex care residential homes, this bill will help ensure that vulnerable Alaskans receive the appropriate level of care in a setting designed to meet their long-term needs. Additionally, the ability to serve both adult and pediatric patients could reduce the need for out-of-state placements, keeping families closer to home and improving continuity of care.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and urge the committee's favorable consideration of this important legislation. Thank you for your time and commitment to strengthening Alaska's health care system.

Sincerely,



Shaun Keef
Chief Executive Officer
Central Peninsula Hospital