

From: [Shannon Malloy](#)
To: [Senate Health and Social Services](#)
Subject: Writing in support in recognizing Myositis Awareness Month in Alaska, HCR 4
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 3:52:23 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

My name is Shannon Malloy, and I am writing to respectfully ask for your support in recognizing Myositis Awareness Month in Alaska, HCR 4. I had hoped to provide testimony, but I appreciate the opportunity to share this in writing.

Myositis is a group of rare autoimmune diseases in which the immune system attacks healthy muscle and skin, leading to severe weakness, chronic pain, and, in many cases, long-term disability. Juvenile myositis affects children, often suddenly, and can take away a child's ability to walk, climb stairs, or even swallow without intensive treatment.

Because myositis is rare, families frequently face long and difficult diagnostic journeys. Delays in diagnosis can lead to worsening symptoms and preventable complications. Increased awareness plays a critical role in helping providers recognize the disease earlier and connect patients to appropriate care.

This is especially important in states like Alaska, where access to specialists can be limited. A designated Myositis Awareness Month would help raise visibility, support earlier diagnosis, and ensure families know where to turn for care and resources.

Recognizing Myositis Awareness Month is a meaningful, no-cost way to support families facing a life-altering disease and to improve health outcomes across your state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to share additional information or connect you with families impacted by myositis.

Warmly,
Shannon

Shannon Malloy
Director, Development & Community Engagement

