



February 2, 2026

Alaska State Capitol
State Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Via electronic submission to Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 196—Behavioral Health Crisis Surcharge & Fund

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Inseparable, a national nonprofit mental health advocacy organization, I write in strong support of SB 196, legislation that would establish a sustainable funding source for Alaska’s behavioral health crisis system. By generating an estimated \$6-8 million annually, SB 196 would help ensure that lifesaving crisis services are available when Alaskans need them most--regardless of where they live or their ability to pay.

Mental health crises are a daily reality across the country. Every minute in the United States, an average of two people attempt suicide, three people with a mental health condition are booked into jail, and eight calls, texts, and chats are made to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. In Alaska, these challenges are even more severe. The state has the second-highest rate of adult suicide in the nation, the highest rate of teen suicide, and rising overdose deaths even as rates decline elsewhere. Too often, people experiencing a mental health crisis do not know where to turn--or they encounter systems that are overwhelmed, unavailable, or not designed to meet their needs.

SB 196 would help Alaska continue building a modern, effective crisis response system grounded in the nationally recognized “Crisis Now” model: someone to talk to, someone to respond, and a safe place for help. This evidence-based framework functions as a funnel, ensuring that people receive the right level of care at the right time. Most individuals in crisis can be stabilized through a call, text, or chat with the 988 Lifeline or Careline. A smaller share require a mobile crisis response, and fewer still need short-term stabilization in a dedicated facility. States and communities that have implemented this model have seen reductions in unnecessary emergency department visits, avoidable arrests, system costs, and--most importantly--preventable loss of life.

Alaska has made meaningful progress toward this vision, but continued reliance on limited general funds threatens the stability and growth of these services. SB 196 offers a pragmatic and proven solution. The proposed \$0.98 per-line surcharge would create a dedicated, ongoing funding stream to support crisis services statewide. Alaska would join at least eleven states, including Washington and Oregon, that have enacted similar 988 surcharges to strengthen their crisis response systems.

Critically, SB 196 prioritizes local flexibility. Through Division of Behavioral Health grants, communities would be able to invest in the crisis services that best meet their unique needs — whether mobile crisis teams, peer respite programs, crisis stabilization facilities, expanded 988 and Careline capacity, or culturally responsive services such as crisis and help lines tailored to Alaska Native communities.

We respectfully urge the Committee to advance SB 196 and help ensure that every Alaskan experiencing a mental health crisis has access to timely, compassionate, and effective care. This legislation represents an important step toward a crisis system that promotes safety, dignity, and recovery.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Kimball".

Angela Kimball
Chief Advocacy Officer
Inseparable

February 2, 2026

Senator Scott Kawasaki

Subject: In support of SB 196

Dear Senator Kawasaki,

My name is Barbara Mongar and I live in Palmer, Alaska. I am the Coordinator of the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition. I am writing in support of SB 196.

The Mat-Su Reentry Coalition and its partners provide hands-on support for Alaskans leaving incarceration and successfully returning to their communities. We help them get employment, housing, and access to treatment and healthcare.

Many of the individuals we work with have mental and substance abuse issues and would benefit from having access to Crisis Now-related services.

Alaska's Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants have been significantly cut since 2019. Alaska not only has the 2nd highest rate of adult suicide, it also has seen opioid- related deaths significantly increase in recent years.

SB 196 seeks to provide sustainable and predictable funding for Crisis Now-related services across Alaska by establishing a behavioral health crisis Service surcharge and establishing the behavioral health crisis fund. At \$.98 per line, SB 196 is estimated to generate \$6-8 million annually. The 988/Crisis Now framework seeks to alleviate the burden on law enforcement, first responders, hospitals, and corrections.

I support SB 196 because funding flexibility is built in to allow communities to expand capacity and Crisis Now related services based on specific local needs and gaps. Behavioral health crisis related services help individuals experiencing a crisis get stabilized and become contributing members of their communities.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mongar
5945 E. Bideford Blvd,
Palmer, Alaska 99645



Our Mission

To provide support, education and advocacy for people experiencing psychiatric disabilities, their families, friends, and interested community members.

NAMI Fairbanks

3504 Industrial Ave, Suite 102
Fairbanks, AK 99701

February 2, 2026

Senator Scott Kawasaki
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for Senate Bill 196 – Behavioral Health Crisis Services Surcharge

Dear Senator Kawasaki and Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of NAMI Fairbanks, I write in strong support of Senate Bill 196, which establishes a much-needed behavioral health crisis services surcharge to fund Alaska's Crisis Now framework and 988 response system.

As Alaska faces a dire fiscal climate and ongoing reductions to critical behavioral health and substance use programs, SB 196 offers a sustainable and predictable funding mechanism to ensure that people in crisis receive timely, appropriate care. This is especially critical in our state, which continues to experience some of the highest suicide and opioid-related death rates in the nation.

The flexibility built into this legislation empowers communities like ours to expand mobile crisis response, improve 988 call center services, develop stabilization centers, and invest in culturally responsive outreach. These services are essential to reducing strain on law enforcement, emergency departments, and correctional facilities—while offering more compassionate and effective care.

At NAMI Fairbanks, we see firsthand the gaps in crisis services that leave individuals and families vulnerable. We believe SB 196 is a necessary step forward to strengthen Alaska's behavioral health system and save lives.

Thank you for your leadership on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nenette Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nenette Rogers
Executive Director
NAMI Fairbanks
nenette.rogers@namifairbanks.org
(907) 456-4704



February 6, 2026

To: The Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

Re: **Support for Senate Bill 196:** Strengthening Alaska's Behavioral Health Crisis System

NAMI Alaska strongly supports Senate Bill 196 which would establish a behavioral health crisis services surcharge to provide sustainable funding for Alaska's *Crisis Now* framework and the *988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline*.

As part of our 2026 legislative priorities, we continue to advocate for strengthening crisis intervention resources across Alaska. SB 196 offers a crucial and predictable funding stream that will help ensure Alaskans in crisis receive timely, appropriate, and life-saving care.

At a time when our state faces ongoing reductions in behavioral health funding—and continues to experience some of the highest suicide and opioid-related death rates in the nation—this legislation is a vital step forward. 988 saves lives!

The flexibility in SB 196 allows communities to:

- Expand mobile crisis response teams
- Fund 988 call center operations statewide
- Establish and enhance stabilization centers
- Support culturally responsive outreach and care

These investments will reduce the burden on emergency departments, law enforcement, and correctional facilities—while delivering more compassionate and effective services to those in need.

We see firsthand the devastating impact of gaps in crisis response. SB 196 ensures continued support for essential operations like Careline Alaska, making certain that no Alaskan in crisis is left without help.

Here are more reasons to pass this legislation:

- When it comes to mental health crisis, one call can save a life.
- Just as 911 is universally known for use during emergencies, like a heart attack or car accident, contacting 988 can be lifesaving for people experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Mental health crisis and suicides can be devastating for individuals, families, and communities. When someone experiences a mental health crisis and doesn't receive the

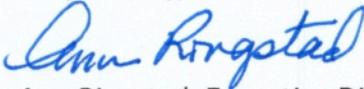
care they need, they can end up in emergency rooms, experience homelessness, become involved in the criminal justice system or worse, lose their life.

- We need to ensure that everyone who experiences a mental health crisis, no matter where they live, received a mental health response. A cornerstone of that response is a 24/7 crisis hotline.
- The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline was established as an easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code offering 24/7 crisis support via call, text or chat.
- Directing people to 988 can reduce the need for costly in-person responses to people in need, as many crises can be deescalated over the phone.
- But creating 988 is only the first step. Federal, state and local governments all have a role to play to ensure that there are resources to support 988 and that this universal number is the gateway to a local crisis continuum of care.
- Every person in crisis should have access to not just someone to talk to (988), but someone to respond, and a safe place for help.
- It will take all of us to ensure that the true vision for the 988 Lifeline and a crisis continuum of care is achieved and that we can connect people in crisis to the care they need and deserve.

We urge lawmakers to pass SB 196 this session. This legislation is not only fiscally responsible—it is **life-saving**. It will provide the foundation for a stronger, more responsive behavioral health crisis system in Alaska for generations to come.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Respectfully,



Ann Ringstad, Executive Director
NAMI Alaska, Inc.



Dear Senator Scott Kawasaki,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 196 (SB196), which will establish a dedicated funding mechanism for Alaska's behavioral health crisis services, including our Careline Alaska Crisis Call Center—the state's only 988 crisis call center.

Careline Alaska provides life-saving crisis intervention, providing over 43,000 crisis contacts for vulnerable Alaskans last year alone. The crisis call center provides a critical service for individuals experiencing mental health crises, suicidal ideation, and emotional distress, connecting them with compassionate professionals who offer immediate support. Each timely intervention by Careline helps avert expensive hospital stays and transfers to psychiatric facilities, reducing the State's costs while emphasizing early assistance and sustained well-being.

Despite their immense public health impact, services like Careline's often struggle to secure reliable funding through traditional sources such as Medicaid. Implementing sustainable funding solutions for Alaska's crisis care system is essential. SB196 ensures funding for crisis response services to support operations like Careline Alaska. Passage of this groundbreaking legislation maintains and expands critical behavioral health resources, ensuring no Alaskan in crisis is left without help.

I urge you to support SB196 and advocate for its swift passage. Reliable funding for the Careline Alaska Crisis Call Center and other crisis care providers will save lives and strengthen Alaska's behavioral health crisis response system for generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me if you require further information or personal testimony regarding the importance of Careline Alaska and SB196.

Sincerely,

Susanna Marchuk
Executive Director
executivedirector@akccsi.org



Brenda McFarlane – Community Response Coordinator

4 February 2026

Senator Scott Kawasaki,

Thank you for this opportunity for the City of Fairbanks Community Response Coordinator to express strong support for Senate Bill 196 to expand crisis service capacity across the state.

The Fairbanks City Council passed [Resolution 5192](#) in November 2025 to ask the Alaska State Legislature to prioritize the development and expansion of a crisis behavioral health system as part of the City of Fairbanks' Legislative Priorities for 2026.

Our community members have been advocating for an alternative to an emergency room or correctional facility for their loved ones for decades. The City of Fairbanks supports Careline Alaska, Mobile Crisis Teams across the state, and the formation of 'No Wrong Door' Crisis Stabilization Centers which accept 100% of referrals from law enforcement, emergency service providers, and the public.

The City has had the distinct privilege of partnering with Alaska Behavioral Health for the provision of Mobile Crisis Team response to citizens in distress for the last 4 years. The team is operated to the full fidelity of the Crisis Now model, integrated with our public safety professionals, and keeps over 88% of community members in their community—diverting them from the hospital and incarceration. We are seeing the fruits of our labor as the Alaska State Troopers are now partnered with the Mobile Crisis Team and the team's call volume is expanding—with 194 calls in December of 2025. This is not the time to lose momentum in the provision of a secure funding source for these services which will eventually save the state money. Every diversion of an individual with Medicaid insurance from an emergency room stay, hospital admission, and possible transfer to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute saves the State of Alaska thousands of dollars.

The City of Fairbanks supports and asks the legislature to continue to support the establishment of crisis services to build capacity for individuals in crisis to be served appropriately in their regions.

Sincerely,

Brenda McFarlane
Community Response Coordinator
Mayor's Office, City of Fairbanks
bmcfarlane@fairbanks.gov | | 907-459-9764

Phone: (907) 459-6793 Fax: (907) 459-6710

800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK, 99701





February 3, 2026

Senator Scott Kawasaki
State Capitol Building Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: Support for SB 196 – Sustainable Funding for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

On behalf of the Alaska Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), I am write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 196, which would establish a sustainable funding mechanism for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and related behavioral health crisis response services across Alaska.

As our state continues to confront a growing mental health and substance use crisis, the need for accessible, immediate support has never been greater. The 988 Lifeline offers a critical connection to help for individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts, mental health emergencies, or substance use concerns—by phone, text, or chat at 988lifeline.org. These services save lives.

Why SB 196 Is Urgently Needed:

- Alaska has the highest suicide rate in the country, and Alaska Native and American Indian populations continue to be disproportionately affected, with the highest suicide rates among all racial and ethnic groups nationwide. According to the newest data in 2023, Alaska had the *highest* age-adjusted suicide rate (28.2/100,000) in the United States.
- Careline Alaska, our state's 988 call center, answered over 24,000 calls last year. It was also one of the first centers in the country to join the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline back in 2005, demonstrating Alaska's long-standing leadership in this area.
- SB 196 builds on the Crisis Now framework authorized by SB 124 (2022), which is designed to reduce the burden on law enforcement, emergency departments, and correctional systems, while ensuring that individuals in crisis receive timely and appropriate care.

The legislation allows for flexible grant funding through the Division of Behavioral Health to support local crisis response systems, including:



- Mobile crisis teams
- Careline/988 operations
- 23-hour crisis stabilization centers
- Culturally responsive programs and outreach
- Workforce stabilization efforts

These investments are critical for building a crisis care continuum that meets the unique needs of our diverse communities across Alaska.

AFSP-Alaska Chapter urges passage of SB 196 and help ensure long-term support for Alaska's behavioral health crisis system. Stable funding is essential to maintaining and expanding life-saving services like the 988 Lifeline—and ensuring all Alaskans can access help when they need it most.

Thank you for your commitment to improving behavioral health care and saving lives in Alaska.

Sincerely,

James Biela
POB 3543
Bethel, AK 99559
Advocacy Ambassador AFSP – Alaska Chapter
Vice-Chair National Public Policy AFSP
(907)-545-4675



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February 09, 2026

Senator Kawasaki
State Capitol Bldg.
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for SB 196 – Behavioral Health Crisis Surcharge and Fund

Dear Senator Kawasaki,

My name is Dennis Lasley, and I serve as the Vice President of the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association (APDEA), representing the dedicated professionals who serve in Alaska's largest law enforcement agency. I am also a 911 dispatch supervisor with 17 years of experience in law enforcement, and I speak to you today not just from a professional lens, but as someone with a deep personal commitment to suicide prevention and mental health advocacy.

For over 16 years, I have also served as a volunteer leader with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), helping to build and lead the Alaska Chapter as its founding chair. This unique intersection of professional service and personal advocacy has given me a clear and unwavering understanding: we must do more to divert individuals in behavioral health crisis from law enforcement and toward appropriate, lifesaving care.

The vast majority of mental health crisis calls that come through our dispatch center do not require a law enforcement response. And yet, because of a lack of resources and sustainable funding, police officers are often the default—an approach that is not only ineffective but can be draining for our limited public safety resources and diverts those resources away from their core public safety mission.

SB 196 presents a much-needed, sustainable solution. By establishing a modest \$0.98 monthly surcharge on mobile and landline phones, SB 196 would generate an estimated \$6-8 million annually to support the Crisis Now model statewide. This investment is not only necessary—it is long overdue.

As Alaska faces deep fiscal challenges, with slashed federal support and reductions in our Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants since 2019, we must find ways to build resilience into our behavioral health systems. Alaska continues to have the second-highest rate of adult suicide and the highest rate of teen suicide in the country. Opioid-related deaths in Alaska have spiked while the rest of the country trends downward. We cannot ignore the reality any longer—lives are at stake.



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SB 196 builds upon the promising foundation of HB 172 (2022) by creating predictable, flexible funding for a range of community-tailored services, including:

- Mobile crisis teams to respond with compassion;
- 23-hour crisis stabilization centers to keep people out of jail and emergency rooms;
- Support for the 988 Lifeline and local Careline operations;
- Workforce stabilization to recruit and retain qualified behavioral health professionals;
- Culturally appropriate programs that meet the unique needs of our diverse Alaska communities.

This is not just a policy decision—it is a public safety imperative. It is a moral commitment to ensure Alaskans in crisis receive the right care from the right people at the right time.

I urge you to support SB 196 and provide the leadership necessary to secure long-term, effective, compassionate behavioral health crisis services across Alaska. Our officers, our dispatchers, our communities—and most importantly, those in crisis—are depending on it.

With respect and gratitude,

Dennis Lasley
Vice President, Anchorage Police Department Employees Association
911 Dispatch Supervisor, Anchorage
Founding Chair, AFSP Alaska Chapter



Actionable Data Consulting

Dear Senator Scott Kawasaki and the House Health and Social Services Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 196. This bill will allow crucial funding for our Behavioral Health Crisis Services. I am the Mat-Su Crisis Now Coordinator, and I have seen the development of these types of crisis services in my community. Twelve years ago, someone having a behavioral health crisis in our community would end up either at Mat-Su Pretrial or the local emergency room. In either place, they would receive no care specific to their crisis. Now, we have a crisis call line, a mobile crisis team, and some crisis stabilization. Our residents are getting the care they need to resolve the crisis and not end up in crisis again in the near future.

Grants are key to keeping these services alive because other funding streams either do not exist (private insurance and Medicare) or are insufficient (Medicaid). Alaska is in a dire fiscal situation; general fund dollars are slim/ we have a massive deficit, and federal dollars for critical behavioral health and substance use disorder programs are being slashed, and we expect to see more cuts. Alaska's Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants have been significantly cut since 2019.

SB 198 will allow us sustainable funding for Crisis Now-related services in Mat-Su and other parts of Alaska. This is key to having a parallel crisis system for behavioral health, as we do for physical health. This funding, which could generate \$6-8 million annually, could help us build out a complete continuum of care for people in behavioral health crisis. This would create a healthier state with Alaskans who are participating successfully in the workforce, with their families, and with their communities.

I urge you to support SB 196.

Sincerely,

Melissa Toffolon, PhD, MPH

Wasilla, Alaska



Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

☎ 907.729.7510 ☎ 907.729.7506 • 4000 Ambassador Drive (ANHB Office) • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • www.anhb.org

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF
ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

ARCTIC SLOPE
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL BAY AREA
HEALTH CORPORATION

CHICKALOON VILLAGE
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

CHUGACHMIUT

COPPER RIVER
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES

KARLUK IRA
TRIBAL COUNCIL

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE

KETCHIKAN
INDIAN COMMUNITY

KODIAK AREA
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN
COMMUNITY

MT. SANFORD
TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF EKLUTNA

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF TYONEK

NINILCHIK
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

NORTON SOUND
HEALTH CORPORATION

SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE

SOUTHCENTRAL
FOUNDATION

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM
HEALTH CORPORATION

VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Scott Kawasaki
Senator, District P
Alaska State Capitol Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: ANHB Support for SB 196: Behavioral Health Crisis Surcharge & Fund

Dear Senator Kawasaki:

On behalf of the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)¹, I write in support of Senate Bill (SB) 196, an Act to establish a behavioral health crisis services surcharge and the behavioral health crisis services fund.

This legislation is a critical step toward addressing the urgent behavioral health needs of Alaskans, which have been chronically underfunded for decades. State funding for behavioral health in Alaska is more important than ever before to meet the needs of escalating mental health and substance use treatment for patients and providers statewide. Alaska is facing a dire fiscal situation while federal dollars for critical behavioral health and substance use disorder programs are being eliminated, and the future of these federal programs is uncertain. Alaska's Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants have been significantly reduced since 2019, at a time when investment in these services is most critical. Alaska now reports the second-highest adult suicide rate and the highest rate of teen suicide in the U.S. Alaska also saw opioid-related deaths significantly increase while other parts of the U.S. saw a decline. Failing to fund these services for even one more session has real life consequences for Alaskans.

The effort to stand up Crisis Now in Alaska began with the intent to improve the behavioral health system of care so that people experiencing a behavioral health crisis can get the right care in the right setting when they need it. The lack of timely and localized crisis support can lead to avoidable incarceration, hospitalization, or tragic outcomes. SB 196 provides a smart, targeted approach to developing and expanding a behavioral health crisis system that meets people where they are—before a crisis becomes a catastrophe.

¹ ANHB was established in 1968 to promote the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people. ANHB is the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues and is the advocacy organization for the Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS), which is comprised of Tribal health programs that serve all of the 229 Tribes and over 234,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people throughout the state. As the statewide Tribal health advocacy organization, ANHB supports Alaska's Tribes and Tribal programs to achieve effective consultation and communication with state and federal agencies on matters of concern.

SB 196 would create a sustainable and predictable fund source for Crisis Now related services across Alaska. At \$0.98 per line, SB 196 is projected to generate \$6-8 million annually. In addition to providing funding directly to Crisis Now services, the expansion of those services would reduce the pressure on law enforcement, first responders, hospitals, and corrections. These funds will support mobile crisis teams, the Careline/988, 23-hour stabilization centers, workforce development, and increasing community driven culturally appropriate outreach, programs, and services, improving health outcomes statewide.

We applaud your leadership and dedication to advancing solutions that address the complex behavioral health needs of our state. ANHB supports SB 196 to fund chronically underfunded but critical services in Alaska.

Thank you for your continued advocacy for the health and well-being of all Alaskans. If you have any comments or questions regarding our recommendations in this letter, please contact ANHB at anhb@anhb.org or via telephone (907) 729-7510.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W F Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Chief William F. Smith, Chairman
Alaska Native Health Board

February 2, 2026

Senator Scott Kawasaki

Subject: In support of SB 196

Dear Senator Kawasaki,

My name is Barbara Mongar and I live in Palmer, Alaska. I am the Coordinator of the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition. I am writing in support of SB 196.

The Mat-Su Reentry Coalition and its partners provide hands-on support for Alaskans leaving incarceration and successfully returning to their communities. We help them get employment, housing, and access to treatment and healthcare.

Many of the individuals we work with have mental and substance abuse issues and would benefit from having access to Crisis Now-related services.

Alaska's Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants have been significantly cut since 2019. Alaska not only has the 2nd highest rate of adult suicide, it also has seen opioid- related deaths significantly increase in recent years.

SB 196 seeks to provide sustainable and predictable funding for Crisis Now-related services across Alaska by establishing a behavioral health crisis Service surcharge and establishing the behavioral health crisis fund. At \$.98 per line, SB 196 is estimated to generate \$6-8 million annually. The 988/Crisis Now framework seeks to alleviate the burden on law enforcement, first responders, hospitals, and corrections.

I support SB 196 because funding flexibility is built in to allow communities to expand capacity and Crisis Now related services based on specific local needs and gaps. Behavioral health crisis related services help individuals experiencing a crisis get stabilized and become contributing members of their communities.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mongar
5945 E. Bideford Blvd,
Palmer, Alaska 99645