

From: [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#)
To: [Senate Health and Social Services](#)
Subject: FW: SB281
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 1:34:13 PM

From: Colleen James <colleen.james@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 12:56 PM
To: Sen. Forrest Dunbar <Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB281

I urge you as a citizen in a small rural area in Alaska to:

1. Reinstate equity scoring
2. Define community need with value on small scale high impact projects
3. Ensure transparency; maintain quarterly reporting requirements so communities can see where there dollars are spent

Thank you for your consideration

From: [Nina Faust](#)
To: [Senate Health and Social Services](#); [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#); [Sen. Robert Myers](#)
Subject: Rural Senior Centers SB 281
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 2:36:31 PM

Dear Senators,

Rural assisted living facilities are a vital and affordable part of our health care system. If you amend this bill without protecting rural facilities so that they can continue to provide good, affordable assisted living accommodations in our communities, we will end up with a lot of seniors unable to afford to stay where they are.

The Homer Senior Center is a good choice for my family. My mom was there until she passed and now my brother is there. We need to keep these facilities functioning with grants and regulations that support them. Do not force them to close or transition to a more, unaffordable care option. Citizens have worked hard for these rural health care programs and we want them to stay in place and to thrive.

Please guide this bill to work for retaining local, private non-profits like Homer Senior Center that have worked well for our community for so long. We want to keep this personal, local option!

Respectfully,
Nina Faust



From: [Pat Westbrook](#)
To: RHTP@ak.gov
Cc: [Health and Social Services](#); [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#); [Sen. Robert Myers](#)
Subject: SB 281 testify
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 3:42:47 PM

I am testifying in opposition to the current version of SB 281 because it removes the size-based equity protections that keep independent rural care viable.

I request instead that you take action to

1) Reinstate Equity Scoring: Restore the requirements that ensure small providers compete against peers, not multi-hospital systems.

2) Define "Community Need": Require the Department of Health to value "small-scale, high-impact" projects as much as large-scale "transformative" ones.

3) Ensure Transparency: Maintain quarterly reporting requirements so our community can see where every dollar is going in real-time.

Thank you
Patricia Westbrook
Homeowner and year round resident



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lori Murray](#)
To: [Health and Social Services](#); [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#); [Sen. Robert Myers](#); RHTP@alaska.gov
Subject: SB 281
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 3:13:35 PM

I am testifying in opposition to the current version of SB 281 because it removes the size-based equity protections that keep independent rural care viable.

Lori Murray



We are asking the Senate Health & Social Services Committee to:

- 1) Reinstate Equity Scoring:** Restore the requirements that ensure small providers compete against peers, not multi-hospital systems.

- 2) Define "Community Need":** Require the Department of Health to value "small-scale, high-impact" projects as much as large-scale "transformative" ones.

- 3) Ensure Transparency:** Maintain quarterly reporting requirements so our community can see where every dollar is going in real-time.

From: [Tina Seaton](#)
To: [Senate Health and Social Services](#)
Subject: SB281
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 3:22:06 PM

Dear Senators,

I have high hopes that SB281 will provide much needed money to help give rural Alaskans the healthcare they need.

I am concerned that the changes in Section 18:AS22.29 remove the size-based equity protections that keep independent rural care viable. This change seems to move the administrative model from local autonomy to favor large state health consortiums. It reduces the independent voice of small providers and favors the large organizations, coercing the single-clinic nonprofits into sub-recipient roles.

Grants should be distributed fairly across Alaska, not focused on urban centers.

Please:

1. Reinstate Equity scoring to ensure small providers can compete against peers.
2. Define "Community Need": value small scale, high-impact projects just as much as large ones.
3. Ensure Transparency: maintain quarterly reporting requirements so our communities can see where every dollar is going in real-time.

Thank you for your work on this important legislation - and please hurry so it has time to make its way through the whole process!

Christine Seaton



From: [chris perry](#)
To: [Health and Social Services](#)
Subject: Sb281
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 2:27:33 PM

My name is Chris Perry. I have lived in Homer for 45 years. Healthcare in my community and the whole state of Alaska is at a dangerous crossroads. Please vote in opposition to SP 281 .

"I am testifying in opposition to the current version of SB 281 because it removes the size-based equity protections that keep independent rural care viable."
thank you for your efforts in your consideration.

Chris Perry



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kristi Henry](#)
To: [Senate Health and Social Services](#); [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#); [Sen. Robert Myers](#)
Subject: Support for Rural grant funding
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 3:11:57 PM

Today's SB 281 amendments raise a serious concern: without protections for geography and organization size, small local nonprofits may be forced to partner under larger systems just to stay competitive for funding.

That is a problem for rural communities and for seniors.

Small does not mean low need. Local does not mean low impact.

Please support a real funding path for small rural organizations and make sure senior needs remain visible in Alaska's health transformation process.

Thank you,

Kristina Henry