

From: [Lada, Diane K](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB27 Public Testimony
Date: Thursday, May 07, 2026 8:57:42 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature,
Simply stated, the impact of statewide recognition of **Stroke as an emergency** is not only imperative, but lifesaving.

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 27, critical legislation that would incorporate stroke and heart attack into Alaska's established statewide system of care for major emergencies. This bill represents an imperative opportunity for the State of Alaska to take lead in improving stroke care for Alaskans.

I have witnessed meaningful progress in stroke care across Alaska, as a stroke manager and care coordinator. Despite with limited resources, we have been able to develop comprehensive statewide stroke systems of care.

With many obstacles to delivering timed metrics of care—we are measured not only by speed of delivery but accuracy of diagnosis—deeming stroke as a true emergency is long-overdue. In stroke care, time is brain. Every minute without treatment results in the loss of approximately 1.9 million brain cells, and even brief delays can lead to permanent disability. Stroke more commonly causes lifelong disability than death, creating substantial emotional and economic burdens for families and communities throughout Alaska.

Stroke also affects many working-age Alaskans. Nearly one-third of stroke patients are under age 65, and many are unable to return to work afterward. Alaska has the youngest median age for first stroke in the nation at 66 years old, and we are seeing increasing stroke rates among adults ages 18 to 45.

I encourage the State of Alaska to join healthcare providers, EMS agencies, hospitals, and community organizations in building a stronger, coordinated stroke system for our state. House Bill 27 is an important step toward that goal and will help ensure that all Alaskans, regardless of where they live, have access to timely and effective stroke care. Thank you for your service and consideration.

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