



Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

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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

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Rebecca Himschoot
Representative, District 2
Alaska State Capitol Room 411
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: ANHB Support for HB 133: Payment of Contracts

Dear Representative Himschoot:

The Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)¹ writes to offer our strong support for House Bill (HB) 133, which would ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the State of Alaska to nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and Alaska Native organizations. HB 133 would allow these public service organizations to enjoy the same legislative protection that certain for-profit organizations already receive.

These entities, including Alaska Tribal Health Organizations, play a key role in the provision of essential services to Alaskans. Many organizations depend on state and federal pass-through funding, and receiving timely payments is critical to their ability to carry out their work. However, current grant and contract processes often delay payments for months or longer, leading to wide-ranging impacts.

The burden of chronically delayed payments falls disproportionately on small organizations with limited cash flow. This includes many Tribal Health Organizations that provide health care services in the most remote regions of Alaska. In many cases, these Tribal Health Organizations are the only health care providers in their regions and thus play an even more critical role in the healthcare landscape. Interruptions to cash flow are a serious problem for small organizations, often leading to the use of expensive lines of credit.

HB 133 would be meaningful for Tribal Health Organizations as well as nonprofits, local governments, and Alaska Native organizations generally in providing essential services across the state. Alaska Tribal Health Organizations would see much needed, near-immediate improvement in payment timelines as departments and agencies prepare for full implementation of this bill.

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, 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 health programs to achieve effective consultation and communication with state and federal agencies on matters of concern.

Thank you for your leadership and your dedication to the health and wellbeing of all Alaskans. We urge the Legislature to advance HB 133.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact ANHB at anhb@anhb.org or (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 name "W" and last name "Smith" being the most prominent parts.

Chief William F. Smith, Chairman
Alaska Native Health Board