



April 23rd, 2023

Co-Chair Representative Neal Foster
Co-Chair Representative Bryce Edgmon
Co-Chair Representative DeLena Johnson
House Finance Committee Members

Re: **SB58** Medicaid Eligibility for Postpartum Mothers

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

On behalf of the Alaska Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (AK ACEP) I am asking you to support Senate Bill 58 “Medicaid Eligibility for Postpartum Mothers.” As an organization we promote legislative changes that will advance the health of Alaskans. One of the most efficacious ways to promote well being is to prevent high risk patients from losing access to care. As it pertains to women - the immediate post partum period is one of great physical and mental change. It is common for women to encounter medical complications weeks to months after delivery. The current coverage of 60 days is radically insufficient. While some medical complications, like post partum preeclampsia, hemorrhage, and infections occur during that time frame, many pregnancy related diagnoses, especially related to mental health, can occur months later. Adequate health care coverage during this vulnerable window is crucial. Expansion of medicaid services for 12 months post partum will improve health outcomes of mothers by reducing mortality rates, and the consequences of untreated health issues. The direct result of healthier mothers is healthier children.

We believe that SB58 will improve the health of Alaskans and address disparities in health care outcomes for mothers and their families.

Thank you for consideration of this bill,
Helen Adams, MD

