



February 23, 2024

The Honorable Mike Prax
Chair House HESS Committee
State Capitol, Room 106
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

VIA EMAIL

Re: House Bill 344 "An Act relating to medical assistance demonstration projects established by the Department of Health."

Dear Representative Prax:

I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 344, as introduced by the Governor.

Central Peninsula Hospital (CPH) is a borough-owned, 49-bed, full-service hospital located in Soldotna, Alaska, serving the Central Kenai Peninsula. In 2016, CPH played a significant role in contributing to the development of language in Sec. 45 of Senate Bill 74, which successfully passed in the same year. HB 344 now aims to amend this section, and we believe the proposed changes are complimentary, allowing the Department of Health to build upon the demonstrations authorized in 2016.

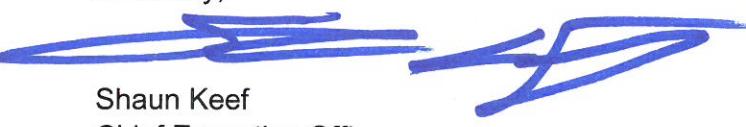
As a small and growing hospital, our experience since 2016 has provided valuable insights. Extensive studies, data, and practical experience have revealed the substantial impact of social and economic conditions on health outcomes. This understanding has become integral to our daily operations, emphasizing the need to address these factors in any innovative healthcare solutions.

The passage of HB 344 would not only affirm the lessons we have learned but also empower the Department of Health to apply for 1115 waivers that encompass "health-related needs," a crucial component for comprehensive solutions.

We appreciate your time and sincerely hope for your support in advancing this legislation and expediting its movement through the committee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Shaun Keef
Chief Executive Officer
Central Peninsula Hospital