



February 26, 2024

Support for SB 240 & HB 343: School District Medical Assistance

Dear Senate Health & Social Services Committee Members,

VOA Alaska is pleased to offer support for SB 240 and HB 343. These bills align with our organization's priorities to increase access to health care services for children and will increase flexibility for schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for eligible children. In addition, these bills:

- ✓ Provide more convenient choices for parents seeking care for their children.
- ✓ Support parent-directed services provided in the school setting.
- ✓ Promote early intervention and prevention.
- ✓ Remove barriers preventing schools from leveraging federal Medicaid match.
- ✓ Increase flexibility for schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for eligible children.

Currently, for Medicaid to cover services provided in schools, the child must have a disability and the services must be included in the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Not all children covered by Medicaid who could benefit from the types of services that can be delivered in school settings need an IEP or have been diagnosed with a disability. This bill would remove the current requirements and present an opportunity to further leverage federal dollars by enabling schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for services provided on site.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Luey".

Julia Luey
President & CEO, VOA Alaska

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