



Anchorage School District

Education Center

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February 26, 2024

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska
550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK. 99501
FAX (907) 269-7463

RE: SB 240-HB 343: School District Medical Assistance – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Dunleavy and The Alaska Senate and House Members,

On behalf of Anchorage School District (District), I am writing in support of *Senate Bill 240-House Bill 343: School District Medical Assistance*. SB 240-HB 343 would improve access to school-based Medicaid services for Medicaid-eligible children. The bill removes statutory requirements that school-based services are only Medicaid reimbursable if a child receiving services is diagnosed with a disability and the services are included in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).

Children come to school daily suffering from medical and mental health issues that seriously impact their ability to succeed. Schools are a critical partner in providing health services to students. For many students, schools play a critical role in managing services, providing screenings, enrolling in health coverage, and referring to follow-up health care. This bill supports our school district in providing services to Medicaid-eligible children by removing statutory barriers that limit access to school-based services. SB 240-HB 343 promotes efficient use of District resources and increases the potential to leverage federal matching funds by enabling school districts to seek Medicaid reimbursement for services provided.

School-based services play an important role in the health of students and provide an opportunity to meet children where they are and deliver services in a setting where they spend much of their time. Simplifying the eligibility requirements for school-based services will support families in obtaining services needed by our students.

Thank you for supporting SB 240-HB 343 and school-based health services for children across our state.

Respectfully,

Jharrett Bryantt
Superintendent, Anchorage School District

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