



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

February 27, 2024

Dear Legislators:

The Alaska Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing physicians and partners in Alaska dedicated to advancing the health of all those in need of obstetric and gynecologic care, is excited to offer support for HB371 and SB249. This legislation will provide greater opportunities to prevent and reduce avoidable deaths, injuries, and illnesses to help improve Alaskan's health.

Effective medical review organizations (also known as review committees) improve the health and well-being of Alaskans by informing policies and practices that aid in the reduction of preventable deaths, injuries, and illnesses.

This bill provides clarification on the sharing and publication of reports and recommendations based on medical review organization findings, so long as federal and state confidentiality laws are met.

By removing the composition requirement of 75% health care providers, this bill will enhance the ability of the Department of Health to conduct more in-depth multidisciplinary reviews with increased representation from non-clinical experts to identify recommendations for better outcomes.

This legislation matters to ACOG because it benefits our Alaska Maternal Child Death Review Committee (MCDR) and our shared work on maternal mortality prevention. This legislation will be a direct benefit to the work of MCDR and other Review Organizations in that it will:

- Enhance the review committee process.
- Improve the health and well-being of Alaskans.
- Support a more efficient and multidisciplinary process that ensures appropriate representation of staff, partners, and external experts.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Sarah Truitt, MD, FACOG

ACOG Alaska Section Chair

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