

February 29,2024

Dear Representatives:

AWHONN (The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses) 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 AWHONN because we, the United States is the only first world country to have increasing maternal mortality rates. While other first world countries have decreased their maternal mortality rate. This legislation will save lives. Whether it be a mother or a child. Thank you for supporting our families.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dina Banez BSN, RNC , OB, IAP,C-EFM,

Alaska AWHONN State Chair