

From: Dorothea G. Aguero

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February 27, 2024

To: Alaska State Senate Finance Committee
Senate Finance Committee

RE: Senate Bill 91

Honorable Chairs and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Please hear and pass SB 91 to allow telehealth for health care providers to serve people with a terminal diagnosis. My friend's husband was recently diagnosed with ALS. This is devastating. If he is lucky, he will have 5 more years to live as the disease robs him of the ability to eat, walk and talk. The best outcome he can hope for is to attend an ALS Certified Treatment Center of Excellence. There aren't any in Alaska.

ALS is being actively researched and it takes a whole team of experts to stay up with the latest information on ALS to help manage his care. He will need to meet with his multidisciplinary team every three months. The Team will include many health care experts in addition to the neurologist but others who are not doctors such as a speech pathologist, respiratory therapist and palliative care specialist. The continuity, coordination and quality of care is critical.

Eventually he will not be able to travel. Telehealth with all the disciplines will help provide continuity of care and help inform his care providers in Alaska on the next best steps. Please hear and pass SB 91 to allow telehealth for health care providers for a person with a diagnosis like ALS. The disease won't wait, please act now! Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dorothea G. Aguero

cc: Senators Matt Claman, Claire Lubke, and Bill Wielechowski