

2024 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL #6

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health

TO: HB 268 / HB 270

OFFERED BY: Representative Fields

FISCAL YEAR: FY25

DEPARTMENT: Health

APPROPRIATION: Senior & Disability Services

ALLOCATION: Early Intervention / Infant Learning Programs

ADD: \$750,000 / Fund Source: General Fund / Fund Code: 1037

EXPLANATION: This amendment proposal expands agency capacity for outreach and expansion for the Alaska Infant Learning Program. With this increment, DOH may expand outreach to families with children at risk or who experience developmental delays. Over the past 10 years ILP has received flat funding, which has not been adequate to keep up with inflation and the increased costs of running ILP programs and services.

Early intervention has proven life-long benefits to program recipients; however, program participation rates remain low. Children from birth to 3 years are in the most important developmental phase of their lives. Support for early intervention efforts help to bring Alaska up to the national average for outcomes for young children with developmental disabilities.