

Re: HB371 and SB249

March 8, 2024

I am in support of HB371 and SB249. This legislation will provide greater opportunities to prevent and reduce avoidable deaths, injuries, and illnesses to help improve Alaskan's health.

I am a Pediatric Intensivist, caring for critically ill children for 40 years. I served as the Medical Director of Pediatric Inpatient Services and Critical Care at The Children's Hospital at Providence Alaska Medical Center for over 21 years. I also serve on the Child Fatality Review and Maternal Child Death Review (MCDR) Teams for our state. MCDR is an extremely effective medical review organization/committee that improves 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 (such as fire-fighters, poison-control specialists, school counselors and educators) to identify recommendations for better outcomes.

Disease and death prevention strategies are the mainstay of practice for all Pediatricians and Pediatric Sub-specialists. Please pass these bills to help Alaska's children.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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