

ALASKA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

March 12, 2024

Re: Support for SB 240 & HB 343: School District Medical Assistance

Dear *Legislators*:

Alaska Behavioral Health is pleased to offer support for SB 240 and HB 343. These bills align with our organization's priorities to increase access to health care services for children and will increase flexibility for schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for eligible children.

Currently, for Medicaid to cover services provided in schools, the child must have a disability and the services must be included in the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Currently, some children lose supportive services when they age out of infant learning programs because they do not meet the requirements for an IEP, though they still have needs that can be met in a school setting. These bills remove those current requirements. In doing so, they present an opportunity for schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for services provided on site. They will promote early intervention and prevention, and they will promote more convenient choices for parents seeking the care their children need.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Joshua Arvidson, LCSW
Chief Operating Officer
Alaska Behavioral Health