

From: [Susan A](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON SB 137
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PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON SB 137

Submitted for the official record

Re: Extension of Termination Dates for the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives, Board of Nursing, and Board of Parole

Date: April 14, 2025

My name is Susan Allmeroth, and I am submitting this public testimony in firm opposition to SB 137 as currently written. While the legislation may appear routine on its surface—extending termination dates for three boards—its structure and timing raise serious concerns. This bill does not merely extend oversight, it cements political control over critical healthcare and criminal justice systems, and potentially aligns with broader national efforts to consolidate power and limit community oversight.

1. Violations of Democratic Principles and Constitutional Oversight

SB 137 bundles multiple independent boards into a single reauthorization bill, bypassing the spirit and intent of AS 44.66.050(e), which prohibits reauthorizing more than one board per bill. Even though a clause in SB 137 exempts it from this statute, such legislative maneuvers are a form of legislative overreach that undermines constitutional checks and balances and limits the ability of the public and legislators to assess each board independently.

Constitutional Law Support:

Alaska Constitution, Article II, Section 13 ("Bills confined to one subject")

Alaska Constitution, Article I, Section 2 (Equal protection and fairness in application of laws)

2. Loopholes and Overlaps

SB 137 opens the door to loopholes that allow unchecked control of public boards for political purposes. The exemption from AS 44.66.050(e) is a deliberate statutory bypass. It reduces accountability and hides board-specific performance evaluations that should be debated in full view of the public.

3. Corporate and Political Influence over Public Health

The reauthorization of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives and the Board of Nursing without reforms or new transparency requirements raises red flags. These boards oversee vital aspects of maternal health, community care, and rural health access, especially for Alaska Native communities. By failing to include modernization, equity reforms, or accountability measures, SB 137 potentially enables corporate-aligned appointees to reshape standards of care and restrict traditional or Indigenous practices.

Relevant Laws & Concerns:

Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. § 1601)

Alaska Tribal Health Compact obligations

State Equal Protection Clause (AK Const. Art. I, Sec. 1)

4. Criminal Justice Control and Racial Disparities

The reauthorization of the Board of Parole without an equity audit or performance review invites the risk of entrenching racial and class-based disparities in parole decisions. Alaska has well-documented issues with the over-incarceration of Native and marginalized people. Reauthorizing this board without deep review is a step backward.

Legal Precedent & Federal Protections:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act (42 U.S.C. § 2000d)

DOJ Consent Decree Standards for Corrections Oversight

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission Reports

5. Alignment with Project 2025's Goals

SB 137 exhibits patterns consistent with Project 2025, including:

Consolidation of regulatory authority under fewer, less accountable entities.

Privatization or political capture of health and justice boards.

Erosion of oversight statutes, like AS 44.66.050(e).

Expansion of state power into community and family health decisions, particularly affecting women, children, and Indigenous families.

While the sponsor's public statements may avoid such language, the structure and intention of the bill echo Project 2025's agenda—to centralize control over essential public services, remove grassroots and tribal influence, and entrench long-term political dominance through unexamined board appointments.

6. Environmental and Community Impact

Midwives and nurses often serve frontline roles in environmental and community disaster response. As Alaska faces intensifying climate risks, their professional boards must be governed by diverse, responsive, and community-informed leaders. SB 137's blanket extensions reduce our ability to adapt to these changing demands.

Connection to Environmental Health Statutes:

Alaska Environmental Health Program Goals

State Emergency Health Response Plans

Tribal health compact environmental mandates

Conclusion and Demands

I urge this committee to:

Reject SB 137 in its current form.

Split each board into separate legislation to allow for adequate review.

Amend the bill to require equity, transparency, and public representation reforms for each board.

Conduct an independent audit of recent board actions and appointments, with a focus on racial equity, public access, and performance.

Investigate possible alignment with national partisan agendas, such as Project 2025, that may undermine Alaskans' self-determination, health, and civil rights.

Final Word

This is not about politics—it is about preserving justice, community care, and public integrity in a time of national turmoil. If these boards are to remain, they must serve the people, not the ambitions of political elites or outside think tanks.

Susan Allmeroth

Two Rivers

Myself

Here are the references as they would appear inline:

(Alaska Constitution, Art. II, § 13)

(Alaska Constitution, Art. I, § 2)

(Indian Health Care Improvement Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1601)

(Alaska Tribal Health Compact, 2022)

(Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d)

(U.S. Department of Justice, 2016)

(Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, 2023)

(Project 2025 Mandate for Leadership, Heritage Foundation, 2023)

(Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, 2024)

(AS 44.66.050(e))

(AS 08.65.010; AS 08.68.010; AS 33.16.020)

(Alaska Department of Health, 2023)

References

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission. (2023). Annual report on criminal justice reform in Alaska. <https://ajc.alaska.gov>

Alaska Constitution. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://ltgov.alaska.gov/information/alaskas-constitution>

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. (2024). Community health and emergency preparedness initiatives. <https://dec.alaska.gov/>

Alaska Department of Health. (2023). Licensed midwifery and nursing workforce report. <https://health.alaska.gov>

Alaska Tribal Health Compact. (2022). Agreement between the State of Alaska and Tribal Health Entities. Alaska Tribal Health Consortium.

Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d. (1964).

Indian Health Care Improvement Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1601. (2010). <https://www.ihs.gov/ihcia/>

Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership. (2023). The conservative promise: Building a better future. The Heritage Foundation. <https://www.project2025.org>

U.S. Department of Justice. (2016). Investigation of the Alaska Department of Corrections and parole policies. <https://www.justice.gov>

3. Spoken Version for Live Testimony (if I was able to call)

Spoken Public Testimony — SB 137

Chair, Members of the Committee—

My name is Susan Allmeroth, and I stand in strong opposition to SB 137 as written.

This bill bundles three critical boards—the Board of Midwives, the Board of Nursing, and the Board of Parole—into one package, avoiding transparency and preventing the public from properly evaluating each one. That’s a serious concern, especially given AS 44.66.050(e), which was created to stop this exact type of legislative overreach.

Why now? Why these three boards—ones that deeply impact maternal health, community nursing, and the lives of incarcerated Alaskans? What we’re seeing here is not just administrative housekeeping. This is a calculated effort to retain political control over boards that should be accountable to the people.

This bill extends those boards without requiring equity audits, Indigenous representation, or public health reforms. That opens the door to appointees who may push outside agendas or restrict access to midwifery, rural health, and parole justice—especially for Native communities.

This isn't about saving time or being efficient. It's about consolidation. And we've seen that before—in national efforts like Project 2025, which aims to centralize power and strip communities of their voices. The structure of this bill lines up far too closely with that.

I'm asking this committee to do the right thing. Reject this bill. Break it up. Amend it. Require transparency, Indigenous and rural representation, and real public oversight.

Don't let hidden agendas hide behind what looks like a simple extension.

Thank you.
Susan Allmeroth
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