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February 16, 2016

The Honorable Peter Micciche
Senator
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Micciche:

On behalf of Providence Health & Services Alaska, I wish to convey the organization's endorsement of Senate Bill 165 (SB165). One of the major factors of demand for health care and its related costs is alcohol abuse in Alaska. Efforts to contain its adverse impacts will benefit Alaskans in countless ways.

Thank you for introducing SB165 to revise portions of Title 4, the Alaska Statutes regulating alcoholic beverages. Recover Alaska has been involved with the four-year process initiated by the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board to engage a diverse group of more than 70 stakeholders to determine how to improve the structure, organization, specific policies and associated implementation issues in Title 4. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The proposed revisions are some of the high-priority recommendations to emerge from this stakeholder effort to improve the overall system of alcohol regulation in Alaska, which will:

- Ensure that the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (AS 04.06.020) fairly represents the interests of all Alaskans by designating seats for public safety and public health, and retaining designated seats for industry representatives and a rural member;
- Reduce and streamline penalties for Minor on Licensed Premises (AS 04.16.049) and Minor Consuming Alcohol (AS 04.16.050), to promote consistent enforcement of these laws while ensuring that underage youth are not criminalized for one mistake;
- Provide an incentive, through a fine reduction from \$500 to \$50, for a young person convicted of either of these offenses to attend an alcohol education program; and
- Prevent any information about a young person's charge or conviction of either offense from being published on CourtView, which otherwise follows that person into adulthood.

Changes to Minor Consuming Alcohol (MCA) and Minor on Premises will have significant benefits for Alaska's youth and for the criminal justice system: in the last five years, over 75% of Title 4 related charges were MCAs, and the vast majority of youth do not return to court with a second charge. Thank you for supporting this multi-year effort of the statewide stakeholder group, and specifically the priority items brought forward for consideration this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Lamoureux".

Bruce Lamoureux
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Senator Mia Costello
Cynthia Franklin, Director, Alcoholic & Marijuana Control Office
Bob Klein, Chair, ABC Board