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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 24, 2025

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill establishing a new health facility license type for "complex care residential homes" to address a gap in Alaska's system of care for individuals with complex needs.

This bill authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to license and regulate complex care residential homes to serve the health care needs of some of the most vulnerable Alaskans - those with complex behavioral and medical, or disability-related needs. By authorizing this new license type, these individuals could receive ongoing care in a long-term, home-like environment that is suited to facilitate the monitoring and care of each resident.

This will provide an additional option for the State to meet the complex care needs of these individuals, many of whom currently cycle in and out of outpatient facilities or reside at treatment facilities, such as the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, which may not be the most appropriate clinical setting for them.

The bill leaves the program to be largely determined and set by DOH in regulation. The bill does not however, limit complex care residential homes to adult residents, making this new type of facility a potential means of reducing the use of facilities in other states for children who require complex care.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure