

April 21, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman Chairman, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee Alaska State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801 - 1182

Re: Please support SB 154 and a Higher Standard of Care

Dear Chairman Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Consumer Direct Care Network Alaska (CDAK) I am writing to you in support of SB 154 creating the Home Care Employment Standards Advisory Board. CDAK has been serving Alaskans since 2001. From Barrow to Kenai, and Nome to Fairbanks, we support 472 clients and 596 caregivers across our state. This legislation will help us deliver better and more efficient services across Alaska.

CDAK strongly supports Senate Bill 154 creating the Home Care Employment Standards Advisory Board composed of state regulators, providers, clients, and organizations representing those who qualify for services. This make-up of the advisory board will ensure that all perspectives are considered in decision-making processes.

The advisory board will provide guidance on payment rates for services, ensuring compliance with federal rules, and will investigate wages, working conditions, and workforce needs, especially in remote areas. By focusing on these issues, the board will help ensure high-quality services and reduce the burden on families by making professional care more efficient and accessible. Additionally, SB 154 includes measures to prevent fraud through investigating payment practices and policies, ensuring that funds are used appropriately and that there is transparency in the allocation of resources.

CDAK has a long history of supporting self-directed care and empowering clients to manage their care according to their preferences. We believe that SB 154 will further enhance the quality of care and support provided to Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jenny Kimble, State Director

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Consumer Direct Care Network Alaska

