

HB 133 Written Testimony

Rec'd 5-19-25

Stuart Relay

From: Mike Walsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 9:56 AM
To: Stuart Relay
Subject: FW: House Bill 133 testimony

Good morning, Stuart – hope you are happily making it through the craziness of the last few days of the session!

One of the people who wanted to testify in support of HB 133 at Thursday's House State Affairs Committee, Kaylee Morton from Presbyterian Hospitality House, had to drop off. She sent written testimony to me, instead of the committee email, which I am forwarding to hopefully make it part of the record.

Thanks!

Mike



Mike Walsh, MPA, PhD
Vice President of Public Policy
The Foraker Group



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From: Kaylee Morton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 2:08 PM
To: Mike Walsh [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: House Bill 133 testimony

Kaylee Morton billing director at Presbyterian Hospitality House, PHH works with severely emotionally disturbed youth, we have 9 residential level 1 and 2 group homes in the Fairbanks and Wasilla, 20 young adults in our transition to independence program and serve 75 foster youth from Fairbanks all the way to Kenai.

We are working with the most precious community members throughout Alaska. Without our services these children could be left in dire and unsafe situations. Asking providers to hold the financial burden for services already rendered longer than 30days effects the services we can provide. Providers should not have worry about IF and WHEN they may be reimbursed but how can we grow, protect and care for the community we are serving. Optum failed at this concept, PHH at one time had 1.2 million dollars as outstanding payments. This is unacceptable. Services were rendered and were not reimbursed in a timely manner or even consulted as to when

payments would be made. With the unavoidable liability of subsidizing the state PHH was unable to hire new qualified staff for our member, were enforced to change program locations, pull funds from reserves and other funding and caused a delay in our expansion and new building, thus effecting the care and growth of the community we serve.

However, PHH has not seen catastrophic demise at the hands of late reimbursement PHH did have to absorb a smaller agency in Kenai that has suffered at the hands of late payments. We are watching providers close their doors or limit services due to late payments while the communities we serve grow and continue to need services and support.

Kaylee Morton
Billing Director



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Hospitality
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From: Mike Walsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 1:54 PM
To: Kaylee Morton [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: House Bill 133 testimony

No problem! Written would be e great!

Mike

Mike Walsh, MPA, PhD
Vice President of Public Policy
The Foraker Group



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