

January 29, 2012

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 7
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

This letter is written in support of SB 144. This past fall I worked as a Nurse Practitioner at Covenant House Alaska to fill in for their NP who was on sick leave. I was saddened to find out that I could no longer give state-provided Tdap to the Covenant House 19 and 20 year olds.

Many of the young adults that come to Covenant House become young parents, or have friends who are young parents. We have had youth come to stay with us who have been exposed to confirmed cases of whooping cough. It is important that we protect these young adults, and the young children they come in contact with, from contracting and spreading this disease.

I feel that providing vaccines is one of the best investments the State of Alaska can make in protecting the health of Alaskans of all age groups.

Sincerely,

Patricia Senner RN, ANP