



**ALASKA
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

**ADVISORY BOARD ON
ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE**

431 N. FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE 203
JUNEAU, AK 99801
907-465-8920 Fax 907-465-4410
Kermit E. Wilson, Executive Director

May 5, 2025

Governor Mike Dunleavy
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 73 – An Act relating to complex care residential homes

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

The Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) and the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) are statutorily charged with advising, planning, educating, and coordinating behavioral health services and programs funded by the State of Alaska. The Boards are also tasked with evaluating federal and state laws concerning mental health, alcohol, and other drug and substance misuse prevention and treatment services (A.S. 47.30.661, A.S. 44.29.100).

HB 73 authorizes the Alaska Department of Health to establish a new residential license type related to Complex Care Residential Homes (CCRH). CCRH's are designed to serve Alaskans with complex behavioral, medical, and/or disability-related needs by allowing for ongoing long-term care in a home-like environment. People with complex behaviors, such as severe and persistent mental illness, trauma disorders, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, traumatic brain injuries, autism, and other complex disorders, are often caught "between the cracks" for receiving appropriate care. Many languish in expensive psychiatric hospitals, out-of-state treatment, or correctional institutions for longer than is necessary because community providers are not equipped to receive and treat them appropriately, or with the right license type.

By developing the appropriate regulatory standards, eligibility criteria, license type, and funding mechanisms, communities will have the tools they need to serve this population of Alaskans in a more appropriate and cost effective way.

AMHB-ABADA supports HB 73 and encourages its passage.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Kara Nelson, Chair
Advisory Board on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

Tonie Protzman, Chair
Alaska Mental Health Board