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Greetings Senators Hoffman, Stedman, Olson, Egan, Thomas, Ellis, and McGuire,

I would like to express my support of SB 144.

I have been administrating state provided immunizations in my office since returning to Soldotna in 1996. The administrative burden has become more cumbersome yearly, however we have continued to meet the requirements because it is best for our patients. Limiting the coverage of recommended childhood and adult vaccines as occurred on Jan. 1, 2012, has resulted in more children and adults walking out of my office without their recommended vaccines then ever before. This is especially frustrating for my nurse and I since we have the vaccines (state provided) they need in our office, some with expiration dates which could result in being thrown away unused. Furthermore, our administrative burden tripled, as we must figure out who qualifies for state vaccines vs. billing insurance, purchasing separate vaccine, etc. As a small business owner, in private solo practice this is stretching resources to a non-sustainable point.

I support the bill as a temporary fix and would challenge our state public health system to look at a permanent long-term solution.

Sincerely,

Katy Sheridan, MD