



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (H)HSS
committee name

committee on HB No. 218 dated 2/28/12
bill/subject

- I strongly support ~~HB 218~~ and encourage this committee to pass this Bill for my daughter + other Alaskans who take "specialty" drugs.
- My daughter was diagnosed with "juvenile idiopathic arthritis" when she was about 11. For about 5 years, she was only able to attend school part-time; she was hospitalized about 2 and up to 4 times per year for "joint injections"; she could not participate in sports because of the inflammation + instabilities in her joints.
- Then, she started taking a "biologic" - a specialty drug! She began improving in 3 months and went back to school full-time.
- She is now in her 1st year at UAA - attending full-time. She was accepted into the UAA Honors College, has declared a chemistry major, + wants to study medicine!
- This specialty drug has been amazing for my daughter + our family. The cost is pretty amazing too - \$400/week or \$1600/month.
- Because of the cost, I strongly support HB 218 because it gives us notice to make the right decisions.
- Please support this Bill to make sure my daughter, and other Alaskans like her, are able to continue on the path to be productive citizens of our communities + our State.

Signed:

Testifier

Barbara A. Jones
myself

Representing (Optional)

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