

Jane Conway

From: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 10:49 AM
To: Jane Conway
Subject: FW: Senate Bill #169

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From: Doris [<mailto:dorie@alaska.net>]
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 10:48 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: Senate Bill #169

I strongly support Senate Bill 169 as I have been a supporter of vaccinations for many years. The distribution of vaccines in the State of Alaska in order to insure vaccination of our population, and especially our children, is one of the most important health programs in the State. The idea that it should end is awful. It could so easily cause an epidemic that our State would have to spend a great deal more than the cost of vaccination to try to remedy. The remedy would never erase the suffering an epidemic would cause.

Thank you for all you do for our beautiful State and thank you for supporting this legislation. Following this personal comment I am adding some boiler plate information which I have received and which has induced me to let you know of my personal support.

For over 30 years, the State of Alaska Immunization Program had a "universal" vaccine program – distributing childhood and adult vaccines to all Alaskans. This universal program insured that all Alaskans had equal access to vaccines. Vaccine costs increases and federal funding declines led to a reduction in this "universal" program. In 2012, legislation was introduced to provide \$4.5 million in state general funds to fill the gap left by this reduction in federal funding. The intent of House Bill 310 (Senate Bill 140) was to temporarily reinstate funds for underinsured children and underinsured/uninsured adults while permanent solutions were sought. This funding will no longer be available after June 30, 2015. We support Senate Bill 169 to establish a vaccine assessment account and implement a self-sustaining vaccine financing solution that has been implemented in other states to preserve universal access to state-supplied vaccines. This bill provides for a more efficient cost-effective vaccination system and reduces administrative burden for health providers and increases access to vaccines for all Alaskans.

Doris Bailey dorie@alaska.net

Sitka, Alaska

Dear Senator Giessel,

As you know, I have been practicing pediatrics in Anchorage for over 30 years, and have seen the benefit of the the State of Alaska's universal vaccine program. This ensured that all Alaskans had equal access to vaccines. Vaccine cost increases and federal funding declines have led to a reduction in this program.

Temporary solutions are fine for the interim, but our children need a permanent solution to this problem.

The benefits of vaccination are undeniable. vaccines (along with clean water and good nutrition) have saved more lives than any other public health intervention.

I support Senate Bill 169 to establish a vaccine assessment account.

This bill provides for a more efficient, cost-effective, and self-sustaining vaccination system, reduces administrative burden for health care providers and increases access to vaccines for all Alaskans.

The risks of having a less-vaccinated, less protected population are clear, as some vaccine-preventable diseases are re-emerging in areas of this country and of the world where vaccination rates have declined.*

Thank you for working to get this legislation passed.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Kiehl, M.D.

***See this map showing outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.**

And be aware, it is not completely up to date, as it does not include some of these diseases reported in Alaska (among undoubtedly other areas). (For example, we know that Pertussis has been increasing here).

http://www.cfr.org/interactives/GH_Vaccine_Map/#map

From: Elizabeth Galloway <gall_eliz@hotmail.com>

Date: February 19, 2014 at 8:19:11 PM AKST

To: "Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for senate bill 169

Senator Giessel, thank you for your time. I am a pediatric ICU doctor at providence. I wanted to lend my support to senate bill 169. Vaccinations work when every child has access to them. Any program the state can enact to help our population stay vaccinated will keep more children out of my ICU. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Galloway MD

PAMC PICU

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