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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
MAILROOM

JAN 30 2014

HV

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Alaska State Capitol Building
PO Box 11001
Juneau AK 99811-0001

23 January 2014

Dear Governor Parnell


Anchorage Pediatric Group would like to encourage the formation of an Alaska Immunization Association, with the appropriate legislation.

As you are aware Alaska previously was a universal vaccine state. After the decrease in funding and the change to a VFC only State (Vaccines for Children). Our office had to develop a new process of purchasing, maintaining, and delivering private stock vaccines for the rest of our pediatric patients. This was an expensive decision in time, money and office resources. I know that many offices chose not to take on the additional difficulty and stopped providing immunizations.

Alaska has many barriers accessing medical care. Our already low immunization rates paired with a new barrier of a 2 tier system which makes it cumbersome to administer vaccines only adds to the problem. A Vaccine Association will help by streamlining the process for the state, providers, and patients alike. Studies have shown that many states have developed self-sustaining immunization programs that increase immunization rates while decreasing the overall cost(s) for everyone.

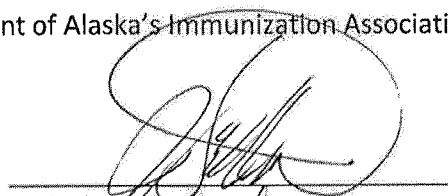
Please give careful consideration to the development of Alaska's Immunization Association

Respectfully,


Janet Alexander MD


Susan Beesley MD


Jody Butto MD FAAP


Jodi Elliot DO


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