

## Helen Phillips

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**From:** Welk, Rachel <RWelk@peacehealth.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 08, 2014 5:25 PM  
**To:** Helen Phillips  
**Subject:** trauma fund

To whom it may concern,

As an Emergency Room nurse, I cannot stress the importance of these funds enough. These monies are utilized for trauma personnel, equipment, education, prevention and data systems that allow emergency facilities to be prepared to take care of trauma patients. Unintentional injury IS the leading cause of death for those aged 1 to 44 in Alaska. In 2009, trauma admissions generated \$121 million in hospital costs alone. Designated trauma facilities can decrease the death rate by 25%. Without continued financial support from the Trauma Care Fund, Alaska's trauma system will fail to remain intact, expand, or strengthen resulting in increased suffering, death, and disability due to injuries. This can certainly cost all communities in Alaska financially, emotionally, physically and have a devastating impact on health and well-being.

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Welk BSN, CEN, TNCC

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