

**From:** Elizabeth Galloway <[gall\\_eliz@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

907 306 5929

**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](http://www.cfr.org/interactives/GH_Vaccine_Map/#map)**

## Jane Conway

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

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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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 including 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](mailto:dorie@alaska.net)

Barrow, Alaska

**From:** The Brands [<mailto:brand@mtaonline.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 9:45 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 169

Dear Senator Giessel:

I have been a Pediatrician in Alaska since 1982. I have seen immunizations fully funded by the CDC, partially funded by the CDC and also a time in the 80's when there was no funding except for Medicaid patients. During that period in the 80's our immunization rates tanked.

Since the reduced Federal funding immunization purchase and fees have yo-yo'd from full to partial and it is unwieldy for all. A consortium with insurances and MC funding a pool would stabilize funding, availability and make for consistent delivery across the board. Please advance SB 169.

Jeff Brand ,

[jbrand@latouchepediatrics.net](mailto:jbrand@latouchepediatrics.net)

## Jane Conway

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**m:** Jane Conway  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 3:58 PM  
**To:** Jane Conway  
**Subject:** Support SB 169 Atwood

**From:** Atwood, Jesse W [<mailto:Jesse.Atwood@providence.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 3:48 PM  
**To:** Jane Conway  
**Subject:** Support for Senate Bill 169

Ms. Conway,

My name is Jesse Atwood. I am a Pediatrician, practicing in the Matsu Valley at Providence Matanuska Health Care Clinic. I have been practicing pediatrics for over 16 years, and have done extensive personal research into vaccines, their side effects, and their benefits. After having given thousands of vaccines to children over the years, and seeing the beneficial results of widespread immunization to both the individual, and society collectively, I am thoroughly convinced that the benefits of vaccines FAR outweigh any perceived or potential risks. It also seems consistent that some financial / governmental support to promote vaccinations improves vaccination rates, and improves the overall health of our communities, likely paying financial dividends down the road. But regardless of any financial benefits, there is almost no medical advancement in the history of the world that has had a greater impact in reducing suffering and death than what immunization programs have achieved. The numbers of people who suffered and even died from many / most of the diseases we vaccinate compared to the numbers suffering or dying from these diseases since the individual vaccines were approved, is staggering. Why wouldn't we want to promote one of the most successful advancements in the history of mankind?

To that end, I am writing to ask that you support in any way possible 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. As a pediatrician, I feel that this bill provides for a more efficient cost-effective vaccination system, and reduces the ever increasing administrative burden for health care providers, a burden that can and will eventually result in a deterrent to providing vaccinations for some. I also feel that this bill will increase access to vaccines for all Alaskans, and serve to improve our health and well-being as a state and as a community.

I thank you for your service to our State and our community, and for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Jesse Atwood MD

2250 S Woodworth Loop, Suite #101

mer, AK 99645 Ph: 907-761-5900

**From:** "Mary Ann Jacob, M.D." <jacobmd@mac.com>

**Date:** February 12, 2014 at 3:25:09 PM AKST

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

**Subject: Vaccine Assessment Bill**

Dear Senator Giessel:

Thanks so much for your interest in Senate Bill 169. As a pediatrician in Anchorage, I have seen firsthand many of the diseases that are vaccine-preventable. I've also struggled to continue to provide vaccines at my small private practice, due to the difficult requirements that we keep duplicate stocks of these expensive vaccines for differently insured patients. It's my understanding that the proposed bill will end up costing everyone less money by doing away with multiple "layers" of bureaucratic requirements and paperwork. I believe that if this bill becomes law, small practices like my own will be more likely to continue offering vaccines to our patients. This increased availability translates into higher vaccination rates. Children will be healthier (and their parents will miss less work). Employers will pay less for insurance (polio vaccine is much cheaper than treating a case of polio!); and since many children are insured directly or indirectly by state funds, Alaska will save money, too.

I strongly encourage you to support this bill.

Sincerely,  
Mary Ann Jacob, M.D.

## Jane Conway

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**From:** Thad Woodard <twooard@AKPeds.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2014 9:23 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel; Jane Conway  
**Subject:** self-sustaining vaccine financing solution

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Senator Giessel and Ms Conway, I am writing to strongly support the adoption of Senate Bill 169 designed to develop a vaccine assessment account providing a sustainable vaccine financing solution for Alaska. One of the most beneficial public health achievements of mankind has been the use of immunizations to prevent life threatening illnesses. There is abundant evidence of the safety, efficacy, cost effectiveness and success of this effort. However the cost of vaccines and the ease of providing them to patients has been a worsening burden over time and as a result Alaska's immunization levels and health care costs related to vaccine preventable diseases are rising. Vaccine assessment accounts have been shown in other states to relieve the problems related to increased costs and help to increase immunization rates. I support Senate Bill 169 for these reasons.

T Woodard, MD

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Thad Woodard, MD  
Alaska Center for Pediatrics  
1200 Airport Heights Drive Suite 140  
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907.777.1800  
www.akpeds.com



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**From:** Tsao-Wu, George [mailto:[GTsao-Wu@SouthcentralFoundation.com](mailto:GTsao-Wu@SouthcentralFoundation.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 1:14 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel  
**Subject:** Bill 169

Hello Cathy Giessel,

I just want you to know that I support the new bill 169 that you have introduced. As a pediatrician in Alaska since 1996, I have had the privilege of taking care of many children. I am thankful that only a handful of them were infected and injured by bacteria or viruses for which we have vaccines. This is in part because of the generous program that the State of Alaska has had in providing vaccines for children. In order to keep our populace as healthy as possible we definitely need a more permanent solution to vaccine funding and this bill 169 seems like a proven and effective methodology to do just that.

Thanks for taking up the cause for vaccinating our kids!

Sincerely,

George Tsao-Wu, MD

Pediatric Clinic Medical Director

Alaska Native Medical Center

Southcentral Foundation

4320 Diplomacy Dr Ste 2300

Anchorage AK 99508

(907) 729-8913



**From:** Tomasoski, Therese [<mailto:Therese.Tomasoski@providence.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 8:48 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 169

Dear Senator Giessel,

For over 30 years, the State of Alaska Immunization Program had a “universal” vaccine program – distributing childhood and adult vaccines to all Alaskans. 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.

Please help get this bill passed. As a pediatrician I have seen the cost of vaccines be an obstacle for parents deciding whether to vaccinate their child. It is in the best interest of the child and this state to have a universal access to state supplied vaccines. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Therese Tomasoski, MD

Providence Matanuska Health Care

Phone: 907 761-5900

Fax: 907 761-5975

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Bomalaski [mailto:[dbomalaski@gci.net](mailto:dbomalaski@gci.net)]

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:56 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Cc: Jane Conway; Singleton, Rosalyn J. (CDC/OID/NCEZID)

Subject: Senate Bill 169

Dear Senator Giessel,

One of the greatest assets of our state is the vast expanse of wilderness that is the envy of the world. At the same time, it imposes significant challenges to the delivery of healthcare in terms of cost, access and quality. We are still obligated to provide the same quality of healthcare to Alaska's children as is given in the lower 48 where they do not face our additional burden of geography and environment. Children's vaccines save lives. It is one of the most cost effective means of preventing disease and reducing healthcare costs.

Other states in the Pacific Northwest have recognized this and established partnerships between practitioners, industry and government to meet this moral obligation. Senate Bill 169 is 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 an efficient cost-effective vaccination system, reduces administrative burden for health providers and increases access to vaccines for all Alaskans.

The Alaska medical community strongly supports Senate Bill 169 to provide access to vaccines for Alaskans in all communities.

Sincerely,

M. David Bomalaski, MD, FAAP

Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric

Alaska Urology

3841 Piper St., Ste. T300

Anchorage, AK 99508

907-563-3103

**From:** William Saltonstall <[willsaltonstall@gmail.com](mailto:willsaltonstall@gmail.com)>

**Date:** February 20, 2014 at 11:29:48 PM AKST

**To:** <[Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Senator Giessel:

As a physician and one of your constituents please let me support you in encouraging Senate Bill 169. Vaccination rates are down. We are seeing pertussis and other preventable diseases. A universal state organized vaccine program would help improve accessibility and reduce administrative costs by providing a single vaccine source. Vaccination is one of the positive, preventative services we offer reducing illness and costs in the future.

Thanks for pursuing this bill.

William Saltonstall M.D.

**From:** <[mcuster@alaska.net](mailto:mcuster@alaska.net)>

**Date:** February 20, 2014 at 11:04:05 PM AKST

**To:** <[Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Senate Bill 169

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 169. This bill will help improve access to vaccines across the state, and will bring us closer to the universal access we once had. The model for a vaccine account has worked well in other states, and reduced costs.

Sincerely,

Marcy Custer, R.N.

**From:** [LPNAKA@aol.com](mailto:LPNAKA@aol.com) [mailto:[LPNAKA@aol.com](mailto:LPNAKA@aol.com)]

**Sent:** Saturday, February 22, 2014 7:50 PM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel

**Cc:** [ris2@cdc.gov](mailto:ris2@cdc.gov); [risingleton@anthc.org](mailto:risingleton@anthc.org)

**Subject:** SB169

Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel,

I am writing to you in strong support of your efforts to promote SB169. Prior to my retirement in the year 2001, my active years in clinical pediatrics, public health, and administrative medicine included four years on the staff of the Alaska Native Health Hospital, two years as the director of the health program for the

residents of Bethel and the fifty native communities receiving medical services through the now replaced "old" Bethel hospital and its supportive rural public health services. On leaving Alaska in 1974, I served as the medical director for the health services for the Navajo Nation and subsequently in the same capacity for the Native people in the States of Oregon, Idaho, and Washington States. I returned to Alaska in 1991 at the request of the administration of Governor Walter Hickel to serve four years as the State Director of Public Health. I subsequently served six years in the same capacity under the Governorship of Tony Knowles before finding retirement being dictated by personal health problems.

I state the above only to demonstrate that I do have experience and credentials to speak on the critical requirement of a strongly based and supported immunization program for all residents of the State of Alaska. Access to strong adult and childhood immunization services were instrumental in the positive gains to the improved health of Alaskans witnessed since my initial introduction to the health needs of its citizens in 1969. The contents of SB169 will help to assure the well demonstrated benefits of a universal adult and childhood vaccination service in a time of increased vaccine costs and decreased federal support. A proposal to assess insurance companies and various agencies responsible for making access to medical and health services and the bulk acquisition of vaccines by the State of Alaska should decrease the cost of vaccines as well as reduce the probability of any increased costs to the State.

Thanks to you and your fellow Colleagues for introducing and supporting the proposed SB 169

Peter Nakamura M.D. Ped. MPH Retired.

-----Original Message-----

From: David Baines [<mailto:bumlegbaines@hotmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 4:08 PM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel  
Subject: SB 169

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.

While I 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 as a vast improvement, I feel the state could go one step further. As an Alaska Native and Physician I felt it should cover all Alaskan including uninsured adults.

I used to work in Dutch Harbor (2005-2009) and the vaccine program helped us vaccinate the large foreign born workforce there for Hepatitis B, a big public health issue. Thanks to the program that provided the vaccines free of charge we could pass those savings on to our patients who had no medical insurance and otherwise would have not been immunized. That coverage allowed us to break the cycle of passing Hepatitis B from generation to generation. This bill still charges providers who see uninsured

adults which would be a barrier to that vulnerable population getting immunized. Thanks for your hard work in improving access to vaccinations but I think it should be that our wonderful state can provide this basic service to all of us who call Alaska home regardless of financial status.

Sha aam dza waan (Wishing you well), David R Baines MD