



Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center

"Serving Seniors from Hiland to Eklutna"

March 11, 2013

The Honorable Mia Costello
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Costello,

Please accept this letter of support for House Bill 134 (HB 134), requiring Medicaid payment for scheduled unit dose prescription drug packaging and dispensing services for specified recipients. The goal of this legislation is to put a model mediset program into statute to ensure the service continues to be offered in Alaska.

The benefits we see of a mediset program are first and foremost the fact that without them our Program Nurse spends valuable time checking and getting medications ready for distribution while she could be spending more time on patient care. Imagine having to take the time to get medications ready for 20 different clients, with some of those clients taking more than 10 different medications. Physically it is not possible for clients suffering from arthritis to open the medication bottles. Medisets provide less chance for errors. Medisets are also less confusing to clients who capable of taking medications on their own without prompting.

Overall the mediset program generates long term cost savings for the State of Alaska, caregivers and provides for the health and safety of Alaskans.

I fully support HB134 and hope it receives a passing vote in both the House and Senate.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Regards,

Linda Hendrickson
Executive Director