



March 27, 2013

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

Representative Costello,

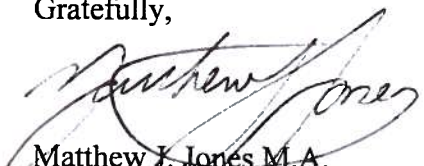
Thank-you for understanding the benefits of unit packaging and for leading efforts to keep them an option for individuals with complicated psychopharmacology needs. While there are serious reasons for maintaining the program that are not directly based on cost savings I would like to suggest they have the possibility for serious costs in other ways.

Medisets are dosed and reviewed by pharmacists and their trained technicians. Eliminating that medical control would require either individuals with severe mental illness to be responsible or rely on Human Service Provider organizations to take on the responsibility and liability of setting up weekly medisets. We suspect medication errors for individuals with SMI would be dramatically and possibly dangerously increased without the prepackaged sets for individuals not being supervised. The organization I work for has one Nurse for over 100 clients. If she were required to act as a pharmacy technician and build weekly medisets she would have no time for anything else and also assume the liability for properly packaging the weekly kits.

Individuals with complicated mental health diagnosis and frequently concurrent medical disorders have changes made to their prescriptions frequently. Weekly medisets save money because they reduce the waste of discarding a whole month's supply of a changed or discontinued medication. This situation occurs when a physician is attempting to find a therapeutic dose, frequently occurs when a person has medications adjusted during short stays in the hospital and when medication for medical conditions and psychiatric medications have unforeseen interactions.

I am sure these are all points you are well aware of, but I appreciate the opportunity to add to the position that medisets help save money and reduce risk for clients and supporters alike.

Gratefully,



Matthew J. Jones M.A.
Assets Inc. Executive Director