



April 8, 2014

Representative William Stoltze, Co-Chair
Representative Alan Austerman, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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907 793.3600

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web.
CITCI.org

Re: Support for SB 88—Alaska Native Medical Center Housing

Dear Representatives Stoltze and Austerman:

Cook Inlet Tribal Council writes this letter in support of SB 88, introduced by the Senate Finance Committee. The bill authorizes the Department of Administration to enter into a lease purchase agreement with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for construction of a 170 room patient housing facility for the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC).

Over half of the people who receive health care from ANMC travel from outside of Anchorage to access health services. This residential facility is crucial for long term services for rural patients, such as chemotherapy, high risk prenatal care, post-hospitalization rehabilitative services for trauma patients, and infusion and radiation therapy, and other outpatient specialty medical care.

Furthermore, Alaska Native and American Indian people, who are also Medicaid beneficiaries, save the State 100% federal match (FMAP) every time they are seen in a tribal facility like ANMC, jointly operated by ANTHC and SCF. Based upon ANMC's increased capacity, a savings of \$8.8 million in general funds is estimated.

Senate Bill 88 is scheduled for a Senate floor vote on Monday, April 8. We urge the full support of the Senate for this legislation, and encourage quick passage in the House of Representatives before adjournment of the first legislative session.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Gloria O'Neill
President/CEO

cc: Bush Caucus

COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL
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