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Comments Prepared for Senate Finance Medicaid Reform Subcommittee

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### **Telemedicine**

- I. Alaska Native Medical Center – through Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium – has been an international leader in Telemedicine for years now. It is a huge cost saver and quality improver. The entire range of services is possible to be improved by telemedicine – Behavioral Health, Primary Care, Specialty Care, Institutional Support. Overall this is a huge cost saver – by providing direct-to-consumer or direct-to-local-clinic care, transportation costs drop, costs for support staff and ancillary services are mostly eliminated, and better early care and screening become possible. Appropriate payments to drive healthcare in this direction need to occur – and be aimed at both urban and rural populations.