



March 3, 2016

Senator Lesil McGuire
State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 103– Education in Residential Psychiatric Treatment Centers

Dear Senator McGuire,

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) is writing this letter in support of SB 103 – Education in Residential Psychiatric Treatment Centers. ASHNHA represents more than 65 hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care organizations who employ over 10,000 Alaskans. Our membership includes Residential Psychiatric Treatment Centers (RPTCs). For over 60 years, ASHNHA members have worked to improve health care in Alaska.

RPTCs are finding that local districts sometimes fail to provide adequate educational services to children in acute and RPTCs who suffer from serious mental illness. Health and education are both critically important to the success of children with challenging conditions. In order to provide the best level of education to our most vulnerable children, we support this legislation.

We would like to thank the Senate Judiciary Committee for hearing this bill that will ensure equitable education is being provided to students who require acute and residential psychiatric treatment. We believe children in acute and RPTCs deserve an appropriate and comparable educational experience.

Sincerely,

Becky Hultberg
President/CEO