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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 72 (SB72) Designated Caregivers for Patients, as introduced by Senator Cathy Giessel.

The mission of the American Lung Association is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research.

This bill aligns with one of our mission goals, to reduce the burden of lung disease on patients and their families.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is just one lung disease that afflicts senior Alaskans. COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in Alaska, and it's a leading cause of disability across the country.

Managing a chronic lung disease takes a team, including doctors, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, patients, and patient caregivers. This bill would ease the burden of lung disease on patients and their families by facilitating communication between caregivers, patients, and physicians.

Sincerely,



Marge Stoneking
Executive Director

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