

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate District N

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2015

TO: Senator Bert Stedman
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Cathy Giessel 

RE: Request for Hearing, Senate Bill 72 "Designated Caregivers for Patients"

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill 72** "Designated Caregivers for Patients" be scheduled for the Senate Health and Social Services Committee at your earliest convenience.

SB 72 seeks to improve post-discharge health outcomes by improving coordination with designated caregivers, providing training to them on discharge tasks, reducing preventable and costly hospital readmissions and enabling older Alaskans to stay in their own homes longer.

At any given time, around 88,000 Alaskans are providing some type of caregiving services and supports to a loved one, friend or neighbor. Caregivers are increasingly being asked to perform complex nursing and medical tasks - such as dispensing numerous medications, administering injections and providing wound care - often with inadequate skill training. Most of all, SB 72 will help people continue to live independently at home, and will support the family caregivers who make this possible.

Attached you will find:

1. SB 72 version P
2. SB 72 Sponsor Statement
3. SB 72 Sectional Analysis forthcoming
4. SB 72 Fiscal Note forthcoming
5. SB 72 Letters of Support and more to come
6. SB 72 Backup Information

Please contact Jane Conway, 465-3623, in my office if you need any further information.

[Senator Cathy Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator_Cathy_Giessel@akleg.gov)