



ALL ALASKA
PEDIATRIC
PARTNERSHIP

All Alaska Pediatric Partnership
PO Box 230567
Anchorage, AK 99523

Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Senate

Dear Sen. Giessel:

I am writing in support of the reauthorization of Alaska's Vaccine Assessment Program under Senate Bill 37.

The All Alaska Pediatric Partnership (AAPP) was an instrumental partner in the creation of VacTrAK, the Alaska Immunization Information Center. Until recently, AAPP also hosted Alaska's immunization Outreach Coalition and actively engaged communities and Public Health clinics throughout the state in promotion of on-time immunizations through events and education. We continue to partner with Alaska's Immunization Program at the Dept. of Health and Social Services to provide immunization outreach, especially in light of recent measles outbreaks in Alaska and Washington.

As you know, Alaska was a universal vaccine provider until 2010 when Federal funding was reduced and a cumbersome, expensive 2-tier system took its place. In 2015 Alaska successfully developed the AVAP (Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program), a consortium of public and private funding that once again provides universal vaccine access to Alaska's children. The program has been incredibly successful in providing efficiency in procurement and distribution while simultaneously offering significant financial savings.

Reauthorization of this important legislation is key to continued success in Alaska continuing to be a universal vaccine provider. We have made great strides in increasing our rates of immunization, having the infrastructure in place to support efficient distribution, storage and tracking is crucial to our continued efforts to increase our rates.

Sincerely,

Tamar Ben-Yosef

Executive Director

All Alaska Pediatric Partnership
tamar@a2p2.org



February 5, 2019

The Honorable David Wilson
Chair Senate Health and Social Services
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 37 – Statewide Immunization Program

Dear Senator Wilson,

Aetna supports SB 37 (Statewide Immunization Program).

Aetna appreciates the efforts of Senator Giessel to renew the Statewide Immunization Program that was created by SB 169 in 2014. The program allows the Department of Social Services to purchase all pediatric and most adult vaccines at cost below those of private purchase alternatives and results in cost savings to the State.

Immunizations are an important part of public health and can help to prevent disease in adults and children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Butler", written over a horizontal line.

Shannon Butler
Senior Director of Government Affairs, West Region

January 29, 2019

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 111
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 37

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 37, *an act relating to the statewide immunization program*.

Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska provides healthcare coverage to over 100,000 members in Alaska and offers a range of innovative programs focused on wellness and prevention to help members improve their overall health. Our health benefit plans cover in-network preventive care in full which includes coverage for all vaccinations recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for members under age 19 and certain vaccines for adults without cost sharing.

Premera supports SB 37 to maintain the state's universal vaccine program to ensure that Alaskans can continue to access the recommended vaccines in a cost-effective manner. The state would continue to purchase vaccines at a bulk, discounted rate thereby minimizing healthcare costs for these critical immunizations.

We look forward to working with the stakeholders and the Department of Health and Social Services to establish a sustainable solution for the Alaska market that helps to lower healthcare costs while preserving access to important preventive healthcare services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary Strannigan
Vice President, Congressional and Legislative Affairs

GROWING HEALTHY ALASKANS

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1/24/19

Anchorage Pediatric Group
3340 Providence Dr #500
Anchorage AK 99508
(907)562-2423

The Honorable Cathy Giessel Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 111,
Juneau AK, 99801
Phone: 907-465-4843

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing in support of AVAP's reauthorization (LS-0162).

As you know, Alaska was a universal vaccine provider until 2010 when Federal funding was reduced and a cumbersome, expensive 2-tier system took its place. In 2015 we successfully developed the AVAP (Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program), a consortium of public and private funding that once again provides universal access of vaccines to Alaska's children. The program has been incredibly successful in providing efficiency in procurement and distribution while simultaneously offering significant financial savings.

Reauthorization of this important legislation is key to continued success in Alaska continuing to be a universal vaccine provider.

Sincerely,

Jody Butto MD FAAP

butto@gci.net



American Academy of Pediatrics

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To: The Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: LS0162 – Letter of Support for AVAP Reauthorization

Date: January 24, 2019

Dear Senator Giessel,

I speak for the pediatricians of Alaska, as a fellow pediatrician and the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics-Alaska Chapter. I am writing in enthusiastic support of reauthorization of the Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program (AVAP), which was created with bipartisan support in 2015, with plans to sunset in January of 2021.

Vaccine preventable disease is one area of health care where there are clear cost-effective savings demonstrated. All Alaskans benefit from high immunization rates. AVAP has operated effectively for the past four years, establishing a workable process, saving Alaskans money on state purchase of vaccines, keeping pace with evidence-based recommendations, and even navigating the recent mumps outbreak with provision of additional MMR doses. After a phased opt-out option ended, there is near universal participation in this successful program, and TRICARE is participating as well. In fact, Alaska was recognized by the CDC in 2018 with an award for most improved coverage for teen vaccines.

I believe it is essential to continue to support AVAP, and the pediatric community is grateful for your leadership on this issue from the very beginning. I feel this program should be reauthorized, with strong consideration for reauthorization without a scheduled sunset date.

Thank you for considering my views. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you further on this or any other children's health issue.

Best regards,

Lily J. Lou, MD, FAAP
AAP-AK Chapter President