

Michael E Costa DDS
2801 W. International Airport Rd.
A-104
Anchorage, AK 99502
NAPAMAN00@aol.com
541-301-2122

April 4, 2019

To whom it may concern;

I am writing this letter in support of the SHARP program, a program that I can claim benefitted me. I have been working for Eastern Aleutian Tribes as a Dentist for the past eight years. We visit eight sites in the Aleutians. The SHARP program allowed me to pay off the remainder of my student loans, I didn't have the added stress of worrying about the financial impact that had on my life at that time. I was able to just treat patients. It also helped me with my introduction to the Aleutians and the needs that our people have out in these remote sites. I continue to work for Eastern Aleutian Tribes and am honored to be able to continue to serve our communities.

I have also seen the challenges of keeping our clinics staffed, in the eight years I have worked for Eastern Aleutian Tribes I have met many providers that have come to work in our communities. Unfortunately many do not stay long. The constant turnover of staff impacts the members of our community as it is difficult to keep up the continuity of care with such frequent turn over. I therefore support the SHARP program as I believe it can help in the recruitment and retention of staff. This in turn improves the care our clinics can provide and the continuity of care that our community members deserve.

Feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael E Costa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent part.

Michael E Costa DDS
Dentist, Eastern Aleutian Tribes

April 4, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Lorie Lawrence and I am a current RN @ YKHC. I am writing this letter in support of SB-93. I am a current recipient of the SHARP loan repayment program. I originally came to Bethel in 2011 and with a great deal of student loan debt. I have personally witnessed the effects of shortages among healthcare professionals here and its impact on healthcare delivery. I do believe however, the SHARP incentive not only aids in recruitment but also in retention. I'm not sure if I would have come here or stayed here had there been no loan repayment incentive. The cost of living is considerably higher here than in Anchorage or other urban areas. In addition, there's an added cost of traveling in and out due to the isolation and logistics of remote living. I carried a large student loan debt burden. Although my wage is higher than in other areas in Alaska, it doesn't cover all the added expense together with my student loans to live here. SHARP is lowering that burden for me which has been a tremendous relief of financial pressure. In light of that, I would like to further my education. I would not even consider it until I have a reduced student loan debt. SHARP is enabling me to pursue a higher degree. This won't only benefit myself but will benefit this community. YKHC is expanding the hospital and clinics which will no doubt create many new occupational openings that will need to be filled. SHARP will ensure expansion of health care professionals needed here in order to provide essential services. I believe the benefits will not be limited to just rural areas, as shortages affect the state on every level of healthcare. I would not have remained here if not for the SHARP incentive and I think it's vital to the continued delivery and success of healthcare across the state.

Lorie Lawrence, RN

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

P.O. Box 2687, Bethel, AK 99559

(P) 907-543-6783 (F) 907-543-6789

Lorie_Lawrence@ykhc.org

April 4, 2019



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

P.O. Box 110693
Juneau, AK 99811-0693
Main: 907.465.3250
Fax: 907.465.1398

April 4, 2019

Senator David Wilson
Alaska State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Subject: ACoA Letter of Support, SB 93

Dear Senator Wilson:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is pleased to offer support for SB 93, authored by you and co-sponsored by Senators Kiehl, Micciche, and Begich. This legislation seeks to build Alaska's workforce enhancement program using the SHARP 3 model to expand the number of healthcare professionals in our state using financial contributions from employers and other private contributors with no State General Funds. This model, similar to the vaccine assessment program implemented by the Division of Public Health, utilizes a successful public/private partnership business model to improve the recruitment, retention, and distribution of health care professionals in Alaska.

Alaska's population is aging. Alaskans age 65 years and older number 87,304 in 2018 representing almost 12% of the state's population (DOLWD Research and Analysis 2018). Access to health care is consistently identified as the #1 priority for Alaskans age 55 and older in surveys conducted by the Commission. In comparison to other age groups, seniors have a higher need for healthcare services. Many live with chronic health conditions and others have co-occurring medical and behavioral health disorders. Seniors who are insured by Medicare, particularly those who live in the Railbelt area, are often hard-pressed to find a physician who will accept their Medicare coverage. The demand for physicians and other health care providers is growing statewide. This increase in demand coincides with a large number of health care professionals who are retiring.

Workforce development in health care fields is key to helping older Alaskans increase their health and well-being. SHARP 3 will provide the infrastructure to expand the number and diversity of healthcare providers in Alaska, including geriatrics, dentistry, and psychiatry which are areas of significant need for seniors. SHARP has always focused on enhanced healthcare access for our State's underserved populations. SHARP clinicians must at least accept Medicare, Medicaid, and federal health beneficiaries. SHARP's acceptance of Medicare patients is of special relevance to older Alaskans and to the Commission on Aging. Based on data provided by the Division of Public Health, SHARP practitioners provided approximately 87,900 care visits to Medicare patients between 2014 and 2018. Further, SHARP pharmacists serviced an estimated 52,900 prescriptions for Medicare patients (Analysis of SHARP Quarterly Work Reports, Division of Public Health 2019).

The Commission supports passage of SB 93 to expand the loan repayment program for health care professionals, enhance opportunities for partnership funding, and increase the number of practice-types in high-need healthcare settings in a cost effective manner that requires no State funding. Thank you for your leadership on SB 93 to continue the momentum of SHARP and its workforce development efforts in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Gordon Glaser
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Senator Jesse Kiehl
Senator Peter Micciche
Senator Tom Begich



Alaska Nurses Association
3701 E. Tudor Road, Suite 208
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
www.aknurse.org

March 26, 2019

Dear Senator Wilson,

We are writing on behalf of the Alaska Nurses Association in support of SB 93 to establish the SHARP 3 support-for-service program. The Alaska Nurses Association strongly believes in the value of the SHARP program, which improves Alaskans' access to high quality healthcare by providing incentives to healthcare professionals to create a more equitable distribution of health professionals throughout the state.

Despite producing many home-grown healthcare professionals, Alaska faces continual difficulties in recruitment and retention of our healthcare workforce, especially in rural and remote communities. At the same time, RNs and APRNs are burdened by substantial educational debt. SHARP 3 is critically needed to continue to recruit and retain healthcare professionals in underserved areas of our state.

Alaska's SHARP program has made a tremendous positive difference in the ability to attract and retain qualified healthcare professionals in critical positions. The SHARP program has been successful in serving as the main state program to support placement of a range of providers, including nurses, in many hard to place communities, using the loan repayment incentive. SHARP is an important tool for recruiting and retaining qualified and dedicated health professionals to support improved continuity of care, quality of care, and access to care.

SHARP 3 is a smart financial move for the State of Alaska. Under SHARP 3, private funds will be used for loan repayment and longevity incentives without the use of state dollars. SHARP 3 will offer a valuable state infrastructure, without the use of GF monies, and will provide the ability to expand the benefits of SHARP to non-HPSAs. This private funding will expand practitioner and site eligibilities beyond the strictures of SHARP-1 and SHARP-2, thereby increasing the number and variety of healthcare professionals and sites participating statewide.

SHARP 3 will greatly impact the health and welfare of communities statewide, benefitting healthcare professionals, hospitals and clinics, and, most importantly, our patients. The Alaska Nurses Association appreciates your support on behalf of nurses in our state, and we encourage the Alaska Legislature to continue support this vital program.

Sincerely,

Karen Morton, RN
Legislative Chair
Alaska Nurses Association

Jane Erickson, RN, CCRN
President, Board of Directors
Alaska Nurses Association

Donna Phillips, BSN, RN
Labor Council Chair
Alaska Nurses Association



NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION

PO Box 966 Nome, AK 99762

Pharmacy Phone: (907) 443-3319

Pharmacy Fax: (907) 443-2847

April 3rd, 2019

The Honorable David Wilson
State Capitol Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Ivy Spohnholz
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wilson and Representative Spohnholz,

I write to you today to express my support regarding legislative bills SB-93 and HB 114, and, more specifically, SHARP-3 funding. I am a past SHARP-I recipient working as a clinical pharmacist at Norton Sound Health Corporation in Nome, Alaska. I have personally seen SHARP-I retain providers for longer periods of time than would have been possible otherwise. While traveling providers can sometimes bring expertise in certain areas for short amounts of time, this type of medicinal practice is not sustainable, nor fair to our rural patients.

Our patients have expressed the utmost gratitude for the continuity within the pharmacy department here at Norton Sound Regional Hospital. Not all of us were brought here because of SHARP and not all of us stay here because of SHARP, but SHARP contracts (whether past or present) are definitely a constant within the pharmacy department. With many changes happening to other providers in other departments, our patients are always gracious to have familiar faces around that know their personal histories. Without this constant connection, patient preferences get missed, past failures get re-trialed, and patients do not receive the highest quality of care. These patients have expressed to us that each time they see a new face in a different department, they feel as if they have to start all over again. They have to gain that provider's trust and, more often than they should, they lose said provider as soon as they have reached that point. I do not think it is fair to subject our patients to anything but the highest level of care available. SHARP-3 will help to provide this continuity of care, while also delivering an overall increase in the quality of care to a higher number of rural patients.

SHARP-3 will open more doors for more providers to come to the state of Alaska and serve our rural communities. Many communities are still lacking in terms of continuity of care in many realms of medicine and SHARP-3 may be the key to filling those holes. Some providers, like myself, come up to Alaska planning to spend a few years, but may end up staying for a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Kyle Vaughn, PharmD
Clinical Pharmacist
Norton Sound Health Corporation

From: Heidi Robichaud <scrimqueen@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 5:36 PM

To: Boyer, Eric D (DOR) <eric.boyer@alaska.gov>

Subject: SB - 93 support

To Whom it May Concern,

As a past recipient of Alaska's SHARP program, I am strongly in support of SB - 93. SHARPs support allowed me to pay off my student loan much faster, kept me motivated and committed to my work at Lynn Canal Counseling Services in Haines and inspired me to move on to my current private practice in Haines, Chilkat Counseling. My practice is very successful and I am rewarded to be able to use my skills to help people through their troubles. SHARP allowed me to move into my goal as a private practitioner sooner. It also allowed me to fund further educational trainings and workshop to develop expertise in my specialty, which is hypnotherapy.

This program is important to Alaska because it definitely helps retain and attract clinicians. Rural areas in Alaska face many challenges in attracting and retaining talented professionals. SHARP made a big difference for me.

Respectfully,
Heidi Robichaud
Chilkat Counseling
Haines, AK



March 28, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to encourage the passage and ratification of SB93.

I have just completed my first quarter as a SHARP participant. I am blessed for this assistance with repaying my loans. Currently I work as a Certified Nurse-Midwife at the Maniilaq Association in Kotzebue. I did not apply for this position, or any other position simply for assistance with my loans. I accepted this position because I have committed my professional career to working in underserved areas.

Long past are the days when students can work their way through schools and graduate debt free. SHARP 3 may be the carrot that brings qualified health professionals to my adopted home. Since SHARP-3 is a public/private partnership that our legislators from both sides of the isle should support it.

Although there are some lovely cities in our state there are also many remote villages like Kotzebue that have a tough time attracting qualified professionals. Just perusing the Maniilaq web site we need four physicians, four registered nurses, a dentist, and several physician assistants and nurse practitioners. I know that the ability to advertise loan repayment programs is helpful to our recruiting efforts.

Finally, I have had many wonderful opportunities to share my leadership skills here in Alaska. I am the President of the Alaska Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. I am also the first Alaskan to be chosen as a Duke - Johnson & Johnson Nurse Leadership Fellow. Offering the SHARP programs will continue to bring world class professionals to this the Last Frontier!


Theresa M. Coley-Kouadio, CNM, MSN
Maniilaq Association
PO box 256 Kotzebue, AK 99752
907-442-7384
fax 907-442-7306
Theresa.kouadio@manillaq.org

MANIILAQ HEALTH CENTER | P.O. BOX 43 | KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 | 1.800.478.3312

Kotzebue **Dikigtaruk**, Ambler **Ivisaappaal**, Buckland **Nunatchiaq**, Deering **Ipnatchiaq**, Kiana **Katyaak**, Kivalina **Kivaliniq**,
Kobuk **Laugviik**, Noatak **Nautaaq**, Noorvik **Nuurvik**, Point Hope **Tikigaaq**, Selawik **Akuligaaq**, Shungnak **Isinnaq**

March 29, 2019

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dr. Zachary Barrickman and I am a dentist for the Copper River Native Association and a proud recipient of SHARP-1. Personally I could not be happier with the program and how it has helped me personally deal with the stress of tackling the large student loans that are necessary to take on in order to join so many medical professions these days.

More and more we hear about the shortage of providers for underserved areas and the gaps in wages between private sector health care jobs versus what can be provided at public health institutions. The sad reality is that when someone leaves school and finally realizes what they owe, more times than not, their focus moves from trying to help people to figuring out how fast they can make as much money as possible to start paying those loans back. The major problem with this is that once a person has chosen to go private vs public health, they rarely will make a change the other way later in their career. I can only speak to the dentistry world on this, but almost everyone I know in public health got into it right out of dental school. If you don't get them right out of school, you are probably never going to get them. With tuitions creeping ever higher, it is harder to attract people to public health jobs, most of which are in rural and bush communities, without some form of help to pay off student loans.

I count myself lucky and blessed every day that I was able to get a SHARP-1 loan repayment option and am so thankful for it because it allows me to live and work in a community that I love and want to stay in without wondering how the loans will ever be paid off.

Looking at our own facility, I see so many openings for positions that can't be filled currently. We have been without a hygienist for over 15 months now. Facility wide, there are shortages in nurses, doctors, PA's, and other mid-level providers across the board. I can't help but think that if there was more opportunities for loan repayment, recruiting new, young, and talented individuals would be much easier. Currently, we are using Locum services to try and fill many of these rolls, which is both very expensive & only short term fixes.

Loan repayment help is not just a way to recruit people to underserved populations; it is also a very important tool to helping retain these people for a long period of time. One of the biggest complaints of my patients is that before I arrived, they had no less than 5 different dentists over the previous 3 years before I started. Treatment was inconsistent and large cases were not followed through on because of the high turnover that can happen with short term providers. I feel that loan repayment is one way to eliminate that because it ensures that the individual providers are invested in staying at a location for long periods of time. Moreover, if you are like me, you can fall in love with your community and can see yourself staying for a very long time. Which I personally feel is the most important outcome of these programs; long term, continuous, high quality, patient care. This truly is what every patient deserves and one of the best results of these programs.

I have read over the concept of the SHARP-3 Program and I think that the ideas behind it are sound and line up perfectly with things I have already mentioned. I like the idea of facilities being able to shift recruitment dollars for short term staff to the more efficient use of those same dollars for long term staff retention. The fact that it requires no state general fund money and can potentially be self-sustaining is huge. Lastly, it provides the ability to help such a large and broad amount of health care professionals, not just the top tier, and really help facilities recruit and retain quality, young, and fresh personnel to hard to fill positions. Simply put, this program is greatly needed and would be very enthusiastically received by public health facilities across the state.

Zachary Barrickman, DDS, Dental Director
Copper River Native Association

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been involved in recruiting medical providers to Alaska for over a decade. The existing and previous SHARP programs have provided me with a strategic advantage for successful recruitment and retention of physicians, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, dentists and physician assistants.

The creative expansion proposed in SHARP 3 would be a welcome addition to my recruitment tool-kit. Thinking back a decade or more to the 2006 Alaska Physician Supply Task Force Report, and further back to the SORRAS one and two reports (State of Recruitment Resources and Strategies) to quote Bob Dylan, it has been a "slow train coming". We need proactive, strategic workforce development strategies for the State of Alaska. We are facing a national shortage of healthcare professionals. I strongly endorse and recommend SHARP 3 and SB-93.

Respectfully,

Brad Clark

Director of Physician & Executive Recruitment & Retention | Tanana Chiefs Conference

122 1st Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

phone: 907.452.8251 Ext. 3079 | Long Distance: 800.478.6822 Ext. 3079

Email: brad.clark@tananachiefs.org

Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center
1915 E Rezanof Dr
Kodiak, AK 99615
907-486-3281
www.providence.org



March 21, 2019

SHARP Council
Co-Chairs Eric Boyer & Rachel Gearhart

Dear Co-Chairs:

Please accept this letter of intent for SHARP 3.

SHARP, as a recruitment and retention tool has been vital to our organization. Our ministry firmly believes in the value of the SHARP program and model in providing high quality care to our state's citizens through an equitable distribution of health professionals throughout Alaska. With SHARP 3 there is a clear ability to expand (1) loan repayment, (2) partnership funding, and (3) establish a standard program administration fee. The strategy is to expand practitioner and site eligibilities beyond the strictures of SHARP-1 and SHARP-2, and thereby increase the number and variety of health professionals and sites, like ours, who participate.

SHARP 3 provides valuable state infrastructure, without additional state general funds, and will provide us the ability to expand the benefits of SHARP to areas that are not Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), a require for SHARP 1.

As such, our ministry is prepared to utilize SHARP 3 as soon as it is available; finding that the 100% match requirement is not a barrier, in that we can utilize our community partnerships to fund this match how we see fit.

We're eager to continue the momentum of SHARP and to support workforce development efforts in Alaska in this way.

Respectfully,

Dr. Gina L. Bishop, RN, PhD, CEN
Chief Executive Officer



A RESOLUTION

Urging the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services to quickly bring about the opportunities available through the public-private partnership proposed in SHARP III.

WHEREAS Alaska has workforce challenges that affect access to affordable and quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS these problems are particularly challenging in rural and remote areas; and

WHEREAS the SHARP Support for Service Program has proven to be successful in helping address multiple aspects of the healthcare workforce challenge in Alaska; and

WHEREAS SHARP I, a program created by the federal government, depends heavily on federal funding to help recruit and retain healthcare practitioners in Alaska; and

WHEREAS SHARP II, a program created by the Alaska Legislature, depends heavily on state funding to build on the successes of SHARP I while addressing some of the unique challenges faced in Alaska; and

WHEREAS a SHARP III concept was created that models the best of the federal and state approaches; and

WHEREAS given the state's economic challenges, SHARP III was created as a public-private partnership that requires no state funding; and

WHEREAS SHARP III provides support for service and strives to accomplish many of the same outcomes as SHARP I and SHARP II; and

WHEREAS SHARP III has been developed, reviewed, and supported by the SHARP Council – a cross-industry advisory body; and

WHEREAS current federal law allows for tax-exempt benefits that support the SHARP program's approach, and major employers and other would-be contributors to the SHARP III program have expressed an interest to start as soon as possible, and Alaskans need for access to healthcare exceeds our system capacity to provide that care, and the consequences for limited access to healthcare are costly – time is of the essence.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers strongly urges the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to work to enact the SHARP III program as quickly as possible.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson; Alaska Division of Public Health Director Dr. Jay Butler; Alaska Division of Public Health Deputy Director Jill Lewis; SHARP Program Manager Dr. Robert Sewell; and SHARP Council members.

Passed and Approved by the Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers this 6th day of January, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leigh Bolin MSW, LCSW".

Leigh Bolin, MSW, LCSW

President 2016-2018

NASW-Alaska Chapter



ALASKA STATE **HOSPITAL &**
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

March 19, 2019

SHARP Council

Co-Chairs Eric Boyer & Rachel Gearhart

Dear SHARP Co-Chairs:

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) is offering this letter of support for SHARP-3. As a member of the SHARP Council we have been involved with the program since its inception and believe in the value of the program to support high quality care through an equitable distribution of health professionals throughout Alaska.

The SHARP program has helped Alaska's hospitals ensure an adequate supply of healthcare providers and is an important tool to help with recruitment and retention. We support the addition of a third component through SHARP-3 legislation.

SHARP-3 will support a variety of practice settings, locations (especially those not eligible as a HPSA or other federal programs for SHARP-1) and provider types. We need to use whatever tools are available to support healthcare organizations to recruit and retain employees. SHARP-3 would expand the use of federal tax exemption for education loan repayment and enhance the number and variety of financial contributors. There is a need to give local control to allow communities to designate funds to support recruitment of providers. SHARP-3 utilizes the existing SHARP infrastructure while maximizing contributions from local communities or foundations. Money could be contributed from different local sources such as a business, private foundation, trade association, government entity, foundations or employers.

SHARP 3 provides valuable state infrastructure, without additional state general funds, and will provide us the ability to expand the benefits of SHARP to areas that are not Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), a require for SHARP 1.

ASHNHA is prepared to support our members in efforts to utilize SHARP 3 as soon as it is available. We're eager to continue the momentum of SHARP and to support workforce development efforts in Alaska in this way.

Respectfully,

Jeannie Monk

Senior Vice President

Jody Simpson

From: Sen. David Wilson
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:22 PM
To: Jody Simpson
Subject: FW: Email Your Senator Form Submission

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: no-reply@alaskasenate.org <no-reply@alaskasenate.org>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 7:35 PM
To: Peter Torkelson <Peter.Torkelson@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Email Your Senator Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Email Your Senator through your website.

Your Senator
David Wilson

Your Name
Thomas Hunt, MD

Your Email or Phone
tom.hunt.viii@gmail.com

Question or Concern
Alaska State Legislature

Senator Wilson

I support the SHARP-3 efforts. I speak today as a practicing hospitalist in Anchorage but also one who -- in prior positions as Medical Director of the FQHC Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center and then CEO of the Providence Medical Group, Alaska -- recruited over a hundred providers to Alaska. I've also worked in resource-poor rural Alaska settings (Bethel, Unalaska, Kodiak, Cordova). I've been practicing in Alaska for 25 years.

SHARP 1 and 2 were very helpful in recruitment and I helped qualify a few recruits through the process. Alaska is the better off for their retention.

SHARP-3 is complementary, targeting those specialists who provide niche specialty services that make Alaskan healthcare equivalent to large urban Lower-48 centers of excellence. We've forgotten the recent past, when

patients needing tertiary care flew to Seattle or beyond. This is now rare thanks to an trickle of specialists who make it possible for Alaskans to receive care close to home. Unlike mainstream specialties like orthopedics or cardiology, these more rare species don't have a large referral base for high-volume practice and proportionately high reimbursement. Many of them are employed because that's what it takes to recruit and retain them. These specialists deserve our support as much as do the courageous and under-recognized primary care providers supported by earlier versions of SHARP.

Thank you.

IP Address

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__216.67.15.112&d=DwlFaQ&c=Q8IjasR7RZ-](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__216.67.15.112&d=DwlFaQ&c=Q8IjasR7RZ-J0Fd9RXd9ZA&r=KVJII8e3-3-)

[J0Fd9RXd9ZA&r=KVJII8e3-3-3m_dhDNmvUkYA7ZCSAZDV6BnDUf8ox9w&m=qEqFKGknRRvmWCJ09hodCPyd0WJnpdxh_TnWAbVt7Ik&s=S1UaLROuU6IL9mQn-mxCy4EMIKIK5zs_V_NR8WYncKE&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__216.67.15.112&d=DwlFaQ&c=Q8IjasR7RZ-J0Fd9RXd9ZA&r=KVJII8e3-3-3m_dhDNmvUkYA7ZCSAZDV6BnDUf8ox9w&m=qEqFKGknRRvmWCJ09hodCPyd0WJnpdxh_TnWAbVt7Ik&s=S1UaLROuU6IL9mQn-mxCy4EMIKIK5zs_V_NR8WYncKE&e=)



**ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM**

March 20, 2019

Senator David Wilson
Chair, Senate HSS Standing Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Re: Senate Bill 93

Dear Senator Wilson,

On behalf of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), I write in support of Senate Bill (SB) 93 – An Act relating to a workforce enhancement program for health care professionals employed in the state; and providing for an effective date.

ANTHC is a statewide tribal health organization that serves all 229 tribes and more than 173,000 Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) individuals in Alaska. ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation co-manage the Alaska Native Medical Center, the tertiary care hospital for all AN/AIs in Alaska. ANTHC also provides a wide range of statewide public health, community health, environmental health and other programs and services for Alaska Native people and their communities.

Alaska's SHARP program provides recruitment and retention services for Alaska's health care workforce, and continues to be of great value to ANTHC. As outlined in the proposed legislation, ANTHC supports its intent to expand health professional types and sites eligible for the program.

ANTHC currently employs five health professionals that have benefited from the SHARP program and looks forward to the continued partnership this legislation would enable. Thank you for the opportunity to provide support and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or if additional information can be provided.

Sincerely,

Gerald Moses
Vice President, Intergovernmental Affairs

Cc: Rachel Gearhart, SHARP co-chair
Eric Boyer, SHARP co-chair

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
4000 Ambassador Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Main: (907) 729-1900 | Fax: (907) 729-1901 | anthc.org