



# Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

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May 6, 2019

The Honorable Ivy Spohnholz  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 421  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 29

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

The Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) is writing in support of House Bill 29 (HB 29).

ANHB was established in 1968 with the purpose of promoting the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people. ANHB is the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues and is the advocacy organization for the Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS), which is comprised of tribal health programs that serve all of the 229 tribes and over 175,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians throughout the state. As the statewide tribal health advocacy organization, ANHB assists tribal partners, state and federal agencies with achieving effective communication and consultation with tribes and their tribal health programs.

Alaska's unique and expansive geography coupled with limited infrastructure make the state a difficult and expensive state in which to deliver health care services. Often Tribes and Tribal Health Organizations (THOs) are the sole providers in the state's rural communities, disproportionately home to our Alaska Native and American Indian peoples. This network is the Alaska Tribal Health System and it is a true system of care, comprised of the voluntary agreements of 30 Tribes and THOs. This system of care allows our member organizations to reach some of the state's most remote communities, where the ATHS treats Native and non-Native individuals. Because of this remote reach, ANHB has long been an advocate for the use of telehealth as a solution to provide quality care to Alaska's rural communities. ANHB appreciates that this legislation is a step in the right direction to re-enforcing the development of a viable, sustainable telehealth system for Alaska that will benefit all Alaskans.

ANHB supports HB 29 to realize a more comprehensive telehealth delivery system. If you would like to have further dialogue on this issue, please contact ANHB at (907) 562-6006 or [anhb@anhb.org](mailto:anhb@anhb.org).

Sincerely,

Andrew Jimmie  
Chairman  
Alaska Native Health Board

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL  
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF  
ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

ARCTIC SLOPE  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL BAY AREA  
HEALTH CORPORATION

CHICKALOON VILLAGE  
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

CHUGACHMIUT

COPPER RIVER  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN  
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES

KARLUK IRA  
TRIBAL COUNCIL

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE

KETCHIKAN  
INDIAN COMMUNITY

KODIAK AREA  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

MANILAQ ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN  
COMMUNITY

MT. SANFORD  
TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

NATIVE VILLAGE  
OF EKLUTNA

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

NATIVE VILLAGE  
OF TYONEK

NINILCHIK  
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

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HEALTH CORPORATION

SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE

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FOUNDATION

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL  
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

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HEALTH CORPORATION

VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE