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Alaska State Legislature and Governor Dunleavy:

My name is Jeigh Stanton Gregor and I am writing regarding Senate Bill 134 that Senator Wilson has brought forward. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor (License #817) who has a private practice in Petersburg, Alaska. I am excited SB 134 is before you and hopeful it will pass. SB 134 will allow the most vulnerable in our population to have the same access to high quality mental health services as people with private insurance or the ability to pay out of pocket. I feel confident that in our town of 3000 a private practice could thrive seeing only Medicaid clients (it would not impact our practice much as we generally have a 4-6 week waiting period for new clients). The passage of SB 134 will most certainly lead to reductions in costly emergency room visits and acute mental health crisis because preventative care is highly effective in mitigating mental health emergencies.

In short, if SB 134 passes, it will be one of the rare times the State of Alaska will save lots of money on mental health care for our most vulnerable while also drastically improving the mental health care for this same population. It is truly a "win/win" situation.

Thank you for your consideration and, as my email and phone number are attached, feel free to contact me with any questions or thoughts you may have.

Sincerely,

Jeigh Stanton Gregor, LPC