



Feb. 24, 2020

Honorable David Wilson
State Senator
Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Cte
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801

Honorable Senator Natasha von Imhof
State Senator
Vice Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Cte
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Providence Health & Services Alaska Supports SB 120

Dear Senators:

Providence Health & Services Alaska would like to express our support for the Senate Bill 120: ADMINISTRATION OF PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION.

Providence has set the standard for modern health care in Alaska for more than 100 years. Today, Providence is the state's leading health care and behavioral health provider and the largest private employer with nearly 5,000 caregivers across the state.

SB 120 supports the ongoing implementation of services under the state's 1115 Behavioral Health Medicaid waiver. Allowing advance practice registered nurses (APRN) to order psychotropic medication during crisis or emergency situations without patient's informed consent will expand access to crisis services across Alaska.

APRNs have advanced training and education that prepare them to diagnose and prescribe medications and treatments. SB 120 removes existing barriers to allow APRNs to work within the scope of their practice.

In addition to de-escalation techniques, psychotropic medications may prevent harm to both the patient and caregiver. Providing a safe and stable environment is critical to evaluation and the identification of treatment options.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this legislation and for your service to Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Simmons', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Preston M. Simmons, DSc. FACHE
Chief Executive, Alaska
Providence St. Joseph Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Renee Rafferty', with a stylized, cursive script.

Renee Rafferty, MS, LPC
Director of Behavioral Health Services
Providence Health & Services Alaska

Cc: Senate President Cathy Giessel