



ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Committed To Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978

ALPHA

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Neal Foster
House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Foster and Members of the Committee

The Alaska Public Health Association supports HB 181 which encourages public schools in Alaska to provide mental health education for students in grades K-12 and provides for the development of State guidelines for instruction.

ALPHA has a long history of promoting school health education that is “comprehensive”. Comprehensive school health education curriculum addresses multiple critical topic areas K-12, including **mental and emotional health**, alcohol and other drugs, tobacco prevention, safety, violence prevention, healthy eating/nutrition, physical activity, sexual health, and personal health and wellness.

ALPHA advocates for the development and adoption of updated State standards for health education in Alaska that are grade-level specific, aligned with the [National Health Education Standards](#) and informed by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). In addition, ALPHA recognizes the need for curriculum training and technical assistance for health education teachers.

The Alaska Public Health Association (ALPHA) is a statewide organization of public health professionals and others dedicated to improving the health of all Alaskans, and is affiliated with the American Public Health Association. We believe that quality school health education can lead to improved health and educational outcomes for students.

Sincerely,

Jayne Andreen
Policy Committee Co-Chair

cc: Representative Claman