



KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION

3449 Rezanof Drive East Kodiak, Alaska 99615 | 907.486.9800 | www.kodiakhealthcare.org

March 11, 2020

Representative Bart LeBron
State Capitol Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative LeBron,

I write in support of HB268. The Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) supports legislation that would eliminate AS 44.85.090(5)(A) and AS 44.85.090(5)(C), and increase the cap in AS 44.85.180(e)(2) to \$500 million.

KANA has provided primary health care services to the Alaska Native and American Indian population of the Kodiak region for over 50 years, and also operates as a Community Health Center under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act within the City of Kodiak, as well as in five of the six remote villages on Kodiak Island. KANA's service area includes the City of Kodiak and the villages of Akhiok, Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie and Port Lions. These seven communities on Kodiak Island span across 12,024 square miles. Kodiak Island is remote with rugged geographical features that are often combined with frequent inclement weather conditions, making it difficult and expensive to deliver primary care services. As a Patient Centered Medical Home, KANA provides a wide range of services including medical, dental, mental health and substance use disorder treatment; all of these services are available daily within the City of Kodiak. Medical and behavioral health services are available daily in five of the village community clinics by Community Health Aides and Behavioral Health Aides under the supervision of KANA's physicians and behavioral health clinicians, respectively. Primary care providers, behavioral health clinicians, and dental providers routinely travel to all six villages to provide itinerant care. Provider and clinician consultations are also available via telehealth and/or phone at all village clinics. Transportation to Kodiak Island, as well as between its geographically isolated communities, is limited to travel only by plane or boat.

Thank you for your commitment; working together, we can make a difference in the health and wellbeing for the people of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Andy Teuber, President and CEO
Kodiak Area Native Association