



Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

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March 12, 2020

The Honorable Neal Foster
Co-Chair
Committee on Finance
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 505
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Via email:
Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov

The Honorable Jennifer Johnston
Co-Chair
Committee on Finance
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Via email:
Representative.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov

Re: Support for HB 268 relating to the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority

Dear Finance Co-Chairs:

The Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) would like to express its support of HB 268, an act relating to the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority. 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 177,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AI) throughout the state. As the statewide tribal health advocacy organization, ANHB helps Alaska's tribes and tribal programs achieve effective consultation and communication with state and federal agencies on matters of mutual concern.

HB 268 would increase the authority for Regional Health Organizations (RHO's) to use the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank to finance capital projects in a more streamlined and economic fashion. Currently, the Bond Bank can only fund 49% of a project in amounts up to \$102.5 million. RHOs must secure other financing for the balance of their projects, which translates into increased costs and administrative burden to coordinate with multiple lenders. HB 268 would remove these limits, which would mean that money currently being spent on interest expense to outside investors could instead be spent on providing healthcare to Alaskans.

Additionally, the ATHS is one of the most important systems which develops joint venture programs across Alaska, and these projects build out health care infrastructure state-wide. Being able to develop facilities which build capacity for treatment in rural Alaska, is a win overall for the state economy. Therefore, we urge the committee to support HB 268.

Sincerely,

Andrew Jimmie
Chairman
Alaska Native Health Board

CC: Representative Bart LeBon, Bill Sponsor

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
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MANILLAQ ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN
COMMUNITY

MT. SANFORD
TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF EKUTNA

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF TYONEK

NINILCHIK
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

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HEALTH CORPORATION

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FOUNDATION

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

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YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM
HEALTH CORPORATION

VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE