



March 9, 2020

The Honorable Neal Foster  
Representative  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Via email: [Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov)

The Honorable Jennifer Johnston  
Representative  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Via email: [Representative.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov)

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

Dear Representative Foster, Representative Johnston and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Southcentral Foundation would like to express its support of HB 268, an act relating to the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority.

Southcentral Foundation (SCF) is the Alaska Native tribal health organization designated by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. and eleven Federally-Recognized Tribes – the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Igiugig, Iliamna, Kokhanok, McGrath, Newhalen, Nikolai, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Telida, and Takotna – to provide healthcare services to beneficiaries of the Indian Health Service pursuant to a compact with the United States government under the authority of P.L. 93-638, as amended, the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act.

SCF provides services to more than 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in the Municipality of Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and 55 rural Alaskan villages. Services provided by SCF include outpatient medical care, home health care, dentistry, optometry, psychiatry, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, residential treatment facilities for adolescents and for women, suicide prevention and domestic violence prevention. We employ numerous staff, all of whom work in harmony to treat patients for the best access to quality care.

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.

We urge you to support HB 268. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Gottlieb', is written over the printed name.

Katherine Gottlieb, MBA, DPS, LHD  
President/CEO

cc via email: [Anne.Rittgers@akleg.gov](mailto:Anne.Rittgers@akleg.gov)