

Lori Wing-Heier
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Dear Ms. Wing-Heier:

Thank you for your work on Senate Bill 93, which would establish an all-payer health claims database. I support this legislation and hope that it passes this year.

I learned while organizing five events on Alaska health care in 2017-2018 that our state has by far the highest health care costs of any state. Alaska's unusually high health care costs cost our state jobs and hamper our economy. Experts have noted that big resource development projects are particularly threatened by just how expensive health care is in Alaska.

Alaska practitioners and scholars from outside our state agree that creating an all-payer health claims database would increase transparency. This increased transparency would help combat Alaska's exceedingly high health care costs as well as increase the value provided to patients. Such a database would aggregate data that would offer a broader perspective on cost, service utilization, and quality than any single entity can provide, as the Commonwealth Fund has noted. The National Conference of State Legislatures reports that at least 18 states have enacted legislation to provide for all-payer claims databases, and Alaska should join them.

Sincerely,

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