



**Anchorage/South Central Region**  
540 West International Airport Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1110  
(907) 561-5335  
(800) 478-0078  
Fax: (907) 564-7429

---

Helping Alaskans with Differing Abilities Experience Hope Since 1968

---

April 5, 2021

Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Sent via email

Dear Senators Wilson, Hughes, Costello, Reinbold and Begich,

**Letter of support for SB93 to create an All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) in the State of Alaska.**

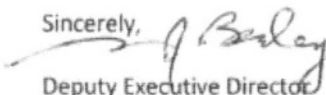
Hope Community Resources Inc. is a non-profit organization providing supports and services to Alaskans experiencing disabilities statewide. With about 600 employees, Hope is among the 50 largest employers in the state. Health insurance coverage for employees represents the second largest operational cost. Hope moved from a fully insured health plan to a self-funded insurance plan in 2012 as a cost containment strategy but health care cost increases continued to drive up the annual renewal cost.

Transparency of health care costs is essential to containing and reducing health care costs in Alaska, and to allow corporate insurance brokers to negotiate more affordable health insurance coverage. We support the establishment of an All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) for Alaska towards this objective.

During the Health and Social Services Committee meeting on 03/23/2021, Director Lori Wing-Heier shared that the proposed reporting requirements for non-union fully insured TPA, Medicaid and AlaskaCare payers would represent only 35% - 40% of claims in Alaska. With a significant migration from fully insured to self-insured or self-funded insured plans over the past decade, the exclusion of claim information from these plans will disproportionately skew the APCD data toward lower reimbursement payers. Accurate health care cost information is essential for organizations and consumers to make informed decisions. As a large employer, Hope would voluntarily allow the health care costs to be reported, with the expectation that no additional administrative burden is incurred by de-identified data being reported from the TPA, which is typical in self-funded insurance plans. We recommend an amendment to this bill to add the reporting requirement for the TPA of self-funded insurers to submit health cost data to assure more complete aggregate price comparisons in evaluating health care costs.

We support this legislation as an essential step to maintaining health care that is affordable for our employees and all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Deputy Executive Director

---

*Serving Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, Kenai Peninsula, Seward, Kodiak, Dillingham and Utqiagvik*

Michael Bailey, MBA