



March 31, 2021

Honorable Senator David Wilson  
Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Committee  
State Capitol Room 121  
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Providence Supports SB 93: HEALTH INS. ALL-PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE

Dear Senator Wilson:

Providence Health & Services Alaska has set the standard for modern health care in Alaska for more than 100 years. Today we remain the state's largest health care and behavioral health provider, and the largest private employer, with nearly 5,000 caregivers across Alaska.

For many years, the headlines have focused on Alaska's health care costs and the impacts on Alaskans and Alaska employers alike. However, our state is finally moving in the right direction. Alaska is no longer the most expensive state to receive care. Medicaid now serves more Alaskans for fewer state dollars than it did just five years ago. In fact, Medicaid General Fund appropriations per enrollee have decreased by 43% since SFY15.

Providence Alaska is working to be a catalyst for change in our state, partnering on Medicaid demonstration projects and clinical innovations to reduce costs. I am a strong believer that Alaska has the opportunity to create a health care model that emphasizes quality and value, rather than volume. To continue this shift in focus to value, there needs to be increased access to data and information.

All-payer claims databases (APCD) are being used in other states, and the federal government recognizes that APCD can improve health care affordability, efficiency, and cost transparency. We have an opportunity to use federal funds to establish our own APCD while setting our own access and use parameters, before facing federal mandates.

We support the State of Alaska Division of Insurance's efforts to create an Alaska APCD and look forward to working with the division on funding models and access parameters that do not negatively impact hospitals and providers. Providence Alaska urges support for Senate Bill 93.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PMS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Preston M. Simmons, DSc. FACHE  
Chief Executive  
Providence Health & Services Alaska

Cc: Members of the Senate Health & Social Services Committee  
Lori Wing-Heier, director, State of Alaska Division of Insurance  
Jared Kosin, CEO, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association