



**Bristol Bay Area  
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*Bristol Bay Area  
Health Corporation is  
a tribal organization  
representing 28 villages in  
Southwest Alaska:*

Aleknagik  
Chignik Bay  
Chignik Lagoon  
Chignik Lake  
Clark's Point  
Dillingham  
Egegik  
Ekuk  
Ekwok  
Goodnews Bay  
Ivanof Bay  
Kanakanak  
King Salmon  
Knugank  
Koliganek  
Levelock  
Manokotak  
Naknek  
New Stuyahok  
Perryville  
Pilot Point  
Platinum  
Port Heiden  
Portage Creek  
South Naknek  
Togiak  
Twin Hills  
Ugashik

*Our Mission: We  
provide quality  
health care with  
competence,  
compassion, and  
sensitivity.*

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Tiffany Zulkosky  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol Room 416  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Via Email: Representative.Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov

RE: House Bill 123, State Recognition of Tribes

Dear Representative Zulkosky,

The Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) strongly supports House Bill 123—an act providing for State recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes.

BBAHC is a not-for-profit private corporation organized by a consortium of 28 Alaskan Native Tribes in Southwestern Alaska. This year 2021, we celebrate 48 years of tribal health care management and 108 years of operating Kanakanak Hospital, a Joint Commission accredited, Critical Access Hospital. The corporation oversees 21 village clinics and manages community health programs and services throughout the Bristol Bay Region of Alaska.

House Bill 123 establishes formal state policy that the state's indigenous peoples have their own governments, and that the government of the State of Alaska will no longer deny their existence. This is an important step in strengthening the partnership between the State of Alaska and Alaska Native tribes. House Bill 123 recognizes and enhances the capacity of Alaska Native tribes to continue their longstanding tradition of providing vital resources to the state of Alaska.

In 1970, President Nixon, in his special message on Indian affairs to the United States Congress, recognized the contribution of the Indian in America as:

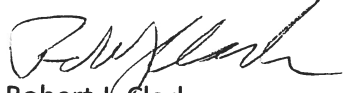
*"A record also of endurance, of survival, of adaptation and creativity in the face of overwhelming obstacles. It is a record of enormous contributions to this country—to its art and culture, to its strength and spirit, to its sense of history and its sense of purpose. It is long past the time that the Indian policies of the Federal government began to recognize and build upon the capacities and insights of the Indian people."*

The Alaska Legislature can choose to recognize those capacities and honor the enormous contributions of Alaska Natives. House Bill 123 marks the trail toward

bringing future resources and prosperity to all Alaskans through a strengthened partnership with Alaska Tribes. We are encouraged by the introduction of this legislation, and we look forward to supporting its passage through the Legislature.

Sincerely,

**BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Clark", written over the printed name.

Robert J. Clark

President/Chief Executive Officer