

Dear Esteemed Representatives,

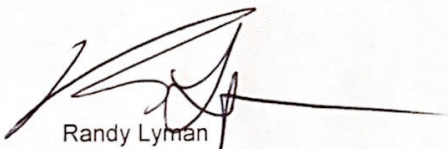
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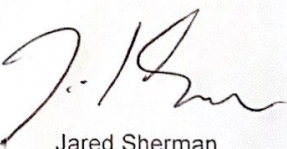
The work of a Community Health Aide is tireless; they act as round-the-clock first responders, clinicians, travel coordinators, hospitalists, tribal liaisons, and are often related to or close to their patients. Since before statehood, Health Aides have organized and played an integral role in maintaining tribal health and community safety. Through our years of service in rural Alaskan villages, Guardian Flight has first-hand knowledge of the exemplary and compassionate work of the Community Health Aide. Our collaboration with health aide organizations across the state has gifted us with an abiding respect for traditional knowledge and culture. Our partnerships have united us in clinical skill advancement. Guardian Flight Alaska is deeply invested in celebrating Community Health Aides for their broad scope of practice and selfless contributions to their village communities.

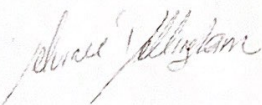
Guardian Flight and Global Medical Response support a Health Aide Appreciation Day to be celebrated each September 10th. We recognize the importance of each health aide organization. We stand united with all those who support House Bill 198 in honoring them in the same way we honor nurses during nurses week, first responders during EMS week, etc.


Alaska's community health aide program is garnering national acclaim as other tribal health organizations across the United States adopt the model that Alaska's health aide organizations have used for decades. Now is the time to honor health aides and health aide organizations at the state level. As a vital partner in community service, we hope to align with you in this effort to bring state and national attention to the people who keep our rural village populations safe and healthy.

Sincerely,


Randy Lyman
GMR Northwest Region President


Jared Sherman
GMR Northwest Region Vice President


Delvinee Dillingham
Guardian Flight Alaska Program Director


Douglas Williams
Guardian Flight Alaska Program Director