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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

September 2, 2021

The Honorable Peter Micciche
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Micciche:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to utilization review requirements, making temporary changes to state law in response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19); relating to telemedicine, telehealth, and background checks.

This bill adds a new subsection to AS 21.06.080 to allow the Director of the Division of Insurance to waive certain utilization review requirements for placements. The bill also provides for the use of telemedicine and telehealth until July 1, 2022. Finally, the bill allows for the temporary suspension of certain background check requirements by the Department of Health and Social Services, provided the facility can attest to conducting said background check requirements as part of its hiring process. There is an immediate effective date.

Passage of this legislation will enhance workforce and healthcare facility capacity, as well as accelerate the State's ongoing response to the transmission of COVID-19.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Mike Dunleavy, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor