

Senate Health & Social Services Committee
State Capitol
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: SB124: Mental Health Facilities and Medications

Dear Senator Wilson and the rest of the Health & Social Services Committee,

My name is Amanda Anthony and I live in Wasilla, AK. I would like to take a moment to share on SB124. I support this bill because it helps our community, addressing the mental health crisis individuals face as well as addressing the lack of available places for them to go to be evaluated. There has been a lack of resources available for those struggling with mental health issues and these individuals often end up in jails and hospitalized instead of receiving the adequate help they need by a trained mental health professional. There is mental illness in my family, and I know many others that struggle with it as well. Making sure trained professionals are there to handle situations appropriately when an individual is in a fragile mental state is so important and it takes the pressure off the police force who are not trained to deal with such situations. By implementing this behavior health crisis system of care, we are providing individuals with a chance to work on their mental health. Addressing mental health and taking care of the individuals in our community is what makes us a strong state. Subacute mental health facilities will meet the needs of individuals suffering from acute mental health crisis by providing a safe environment to be evaluated within 3 hours of arriving, stabilized, and given appropriate treatment options. Thank you for your time and for addressing the needs of those suffering with behavioral/ mental health issues.

Amanda Anthony

[REDACTED]

Wasilla, AK 99654

Jasmin Martin

From: Ron Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 11:09 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Cc: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB124

Senator Hughes,

The State of Alaska has a huge mental health crisis. Suicides, attempted suicides, domestic violence, and on and on plague our state and our people.

What ever we are doing now obviously is just not working.

I have been reviewing SB124 and some of it's provisions, it appears to me this provides a very viable solution to address some of our Mental Health Crisis incidents.

I, like many Alaska families, have experience with mental health crisis. I have seen first hand the dedication and care that our LE and First Responders try to provide in these crisis situations, but as hard as they try they are not trained nor equipped to deal with these kind of situations.

We need a new approach, let's give this a try. The "Crisis Now" model has a track record of success and is being implemented in many community across our country, including Fairbanks.

One aspect of this program, the Public-Private Partnership is very appealing to me. I have long held the belief that private and faith based social services and mental health programs are much more effective and show substantially better results than any government program ever has.

I urge you to give this serious consideration, Alaskans deserve better than what we are providing now.

Sincerely,

Ron Johnson
Palmer, AK