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Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 8:33 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: Senior Healthcare

With the closing of the Alaska Regional Senior Healthcare Clinic there are very few choices for other clinics or Providers that will accept new Medicare patients. As Alaska's population growth for 65+ residents is the fastest of any other age group this becomes a very serious issue. It's not uncommon for appointments for a doctor visit to be two to three months out. This puts a strain on emergency rooms which is usually the only choice for seniors requiring even the most basic of needs. I'm not sure what the State can do to alleviate this as it's a basic supply and demand issue. Perhaps extend Medicaid benefits to anyone over some age, 65, 70 or 75 that have Medicare.

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