



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

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Office of the Borough Mayor

March 15, 2023

HB 21 Healthcare Consolidation

I am writing this letter in support of HB 21; Healthcare legislation to allow school districts and governmental units to participate in AlaskaCare. In the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, our School District is self insured and is required to budget for the annual cost of healthcare claims and administrative expenses for their employees. In recent years, this cost has risen dramatically and this fiscal year alone the district is experiencing a more than \$2 million dollar shortfall between what was budgeted for healthcare and actual expenses.

This rapidly increasing cost for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School district will result in the diversion of funds from instructional activities, redirected towards employee healthcare. HB 21 is a potential tool that could reduce healthcare expenses and mitigate future ones for our District. As this legislation is designed to be voluntary in nature, if it becomes law; there seems to be no downside to giving Alaskan communities the ability and choice to participate in AlaskaCare if beneficial to them.

I appreciate the efforts of the sponsor of this bill and encourage your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Dial", is written over a light green rectangular background.

Rodney Dial

Mayor,

Ketchikan Gateway Borough rodneyd@kgbak.us / 907-220-6861