



March 10, 2023

Senate Finance Committee  
State Capitol Room 519  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 58 Letter of Support

Dear Chair Stedman, Chair Hoffman and Chair Olson,

The joint mission of the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) and the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) is to advocate for programs and services that promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans. AMHB/ABADA are statutorily charged with advising, planning, and coordinating behavioral health services and programs funded by the State of Alaska.

The Boards are pleased to offer support for SB 58 and the expansion of Medicaid coverage for postpartum mothers from 60 days to 12 months as allowed by federal law.

This bill will improve maternal health outcomes for Alaskans by ensuring coverage for critical conditions such as postpartum depression, which may not manifest until after the current two months of coverage. Continuous, regular primary and mental health care increases care for the mother and child and acts as a preventative measure against costly emergency services.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. The Boards are in full support of the expansion of Medicaid for postpartum mothers.

Sincerely,

Brenda Moore  
AMHB Chair

Lee Breinig  
ABADA Chair