

April 24, 2024

Representative Mina
State Capitol Room 420
Juneau, AK 99801
Representative.Genevieve.Mina@akleg.gov

RE: AHHA Supports HB 191

Dear Representative Mina,

For over 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and a growing number of healthcare partners across the continuum of care. AHHA members play an invaluable role, both as community providers and essential employers, in cities, towns, and villages across Alaska.

We write in support of HB 191 and its aim to bring awareness for care in major medical emergencies like strokes and heart attacks within Alaska's Emergency Medical Services System. As we learned during COVID and other challenging times, broad system coordination is critical for healthcare delivery. While this coordination is well established for trauma care through trauma center designations, we agree that the Alaska Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services Office would benefit from establishing this level of coordination and organization for stroke care and cardiac care.

AHHA is proud of our hospitals and the fact that several of them have achieved special designations and accreditations for treating strokes and heart attacks. We believe HB 191 will build on this progress and elevate it to a broader systems level that will serve patients well throughout Alaska. While HB 191 is the first step in establishing broader coordination through the Department's Emergency Medical Services Office, in the future, we recommend enhancing this coordination effort with dedicated funding like Alaska's trauma fund structure.

Thank you for bringing this legislation forward and your commitment to advancing healthcare for Alaska.

Sincerely,



Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO