

Representative Mina,

As the Chest Pain and Stroke Coordinator at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center, I have the privilege of working closely within our Hospital and our EMS system to improve the consistent quality of care provided to patients experiencing an acute stroke or heart attack. While I am proud of the work we are doing within our region of influence, I recognize the need to bring this level of attention and care throughout the state. Time is tissue - for every minute of a stroke or a heart attack, important tissue is lost. This loss of brain matter or heart muscle can make all the difference between a person's ability to fish or hunt again, walk with their children or grandchildren, live independently, and so many more expressions of a fully functional life. Alaskans are fiercely independent and live here to enjoy this incredible state - we need to do everything possible to ensure this is a viable opportunity for them, despite the occurrence of medical emergencies.

I am an active member of the Statewide STEMI Committee, along with an executive team member of the Alaska Stroke Coalition. The work we have been doing in each of these arenas is exceptional - bringing caregivers together to collaborate on ways to continue to improve care in each of our regions. Through the passage of HB 191, we will gain more traction and extend our reach throughout Alaska. By including heart attacks and strokes in this legislature, it will work to ensure we are not all repeating the same work in different silos - but instead, establishing transfer protocols and patterns that work within the arena of all time-sensitive emergencies. Additionally, the support of the State in collecting and analyzing performance and demographic information of heart attacks and strokes will improve our adherence to best practice standards and guide our system of care optimization efforts.

Thank you for bringing this bill forward, and for hearing my personal commentary,

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Amber Simonetti, RN BSN

Accreditation Coordinator | Chest Pain and Stroke

Mat-Su Regional Medical Center | Palmer, Alaska