

✓

AMENDMENT # 3

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE: **Berkowitz,
Cissna, Crawford, Croft, Davies, Guess,
Hayes, Joule, Kapsner, Kerttula, Kookesh,
Moses**

TO CSHB 103 (FIN)

CS HB 103 (FIN) is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES. Contingent upon passage by the First Regular Session of the Twenty-Second Alaska State Legislature and the enactment into law of an increase in the receipts collected under AS 43.60.010, the following amounts are appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services for the fiscal year ending in June 30, 2002 for the purposes described

PURPOSE	AMOUNT
State Health Services - Epidemiology	\$439,000
State Health Services - Nursing	\$852,200
State Health Services - Public Health Labs	\$235,000
State Health Services - Tobacco Prevention Control	\$1,600,000

(This amendment would increase the necessary improvement in the Alaska's disease control efforts. The communicable disease problems addressed in Back to Basics such as TB, HIV, Hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases and the loss in immunization coverage remain threats to the public's health.

Just last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released national data on the incidence of Tuberculosis in the US. Alaska led the nation with the highest rate of increase of 77% in 2000. We have about 700 Alaskans who have been recently been infected with tuberculosis and are at increased risk of developing active and infectious tuberculosis for which preventive antibiotic therapy is indicated.

The reduction from 11 public health nurses request to 4 public health nurses and one aide funded means some areas will continue to experience disease problems that could have been identified, treated and controlled with adequate nursing personnel. The original proposal for 11 nurses and 4 support staff was modest in terms of the work to be done in our state with current disease loads such as TB, Chlamydia, HIV and Hepatitis A/B/C and the needs for identifying and protecting people who may have already been exposed. With the partial funding of Back to Basics, there will be the addition of a few staff in some critical areas to begin addressing some of the most serious gaps in disease control.

Areas previously identified with major disease control gaps that would have been addressed with full funding in the Back to Basics Nursing request will continue to struggle with disease control demands. Those areas include the Anchorage area, Mat-Su, Kenai Peninsula, Bristol Bay area, Delta Junction and Interior Region, Valdez Aleutian Chain Communities, or other areas that might experience increased disease control problems. The disease burdens in these areas are likely to continue or increase without public health control efforts.

This amendment begins to improve Alaska's public health response capability to protect our citizens, and to uphold the state's mandate to protect the public's health.)