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SB 94 Swim
pool Bartlett
to Anch
SB 120 Student loan
program

Summer 80 - budget limit
cut blood type, primary
specimen
- private sector
- virology lab would
be cut
- spec. training &
immunization
- Microbiol II &
Lab Asst II

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SECTION OF LABORATORIES
POUCH H-06-D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: (907) 465-3140

Document# 3-81

January 20, 1981

Honorable Charles Parr
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Parr:

During our conversation of December 5 we discussed the possibility of shifting laboratory staff positions from the Southeastern Regional Laboratory to the Northern Regional Laboratory. This action was being considered to alleviate workload problems in the Fairbanks laboratory which will occur when two laboratory staff positions are eliminated sometime in January. In response to this suggestion I have made a management survey of both laboratories to determine if this is a viable option.

Methods of determining workloads were those recommended by the Workload Measurement Committee of the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors which is a national organization of Public Health Laboratory Directors. Using these methods all specimen numbers are converted into work time units which is a measure of the time required for a laboratorian to perform the needed test work. The advantage to this measure is that it allows one to compare different specimen types using a common unit of measure. Once individual work time units for specimens types have been determined these are multiplied by the total number of specimens in that category to give the total time devoted to a certain type of specimen. Table 1 shows the results of this analysis for all the Regional Laboratories. The Southeastern Regional Laboratory had a total of 80,616 work time units processed from July 1, 1980 to October 31, 1980. During this same time period the Northern Regional Laboratory had a total of 96,903 work time units. Table 2 shows the staff by category and gives workload staff ratios for the same period.

From this analysis it would appear that the Southeastern Regional Laboratory and the Northern Regional Laboratory have about the same work to staff ratios. Therefore shifting positions from Southeast to Northern Laboratory is not a viable option. I have also included in brackets the impact on these ratios in the event that layoffs in the Fairbanks facility occur in January. My concern is with the work load microbiology staffing ratio which will be at 48,451, a level which I feel is unacceptable.

Honorable Charles Parr

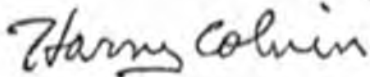
-2-

January 20, 1981

For this reason I believe that reductions in laboratory services will be necessary unless funding for these position can be found and the positions restored to the laboratory budget in FY '82. Enclosed also is a table showing financial needs and position authorizations required if a supplemental appropriation is to be introduced. Equipment and travel costs were estimates requested by Representative Brian Rogers during a visit to the Northern Regional Laboratory in December.

Your concern and support for a most critical health support activity in Northern Region is appreciated and if I can be of any further assistance please advise.

Sincerely,



Harry J. Colvin, Ph.D.
Chief, Section of Laboratories

Enclosures

cc: Representative Sally Smith

TABLE 1: Shows the major testing categories and the total number of Work Time Units¹ devoted to that activity from July 1, 1980 to October 31, 1980 in Regional Laboratories.

<u>TEST PROCEDURE</u>	<u>WORK TIME UNITS (minutes)</u>		
	SERL	NRL	SCRL
Serology	4,120	8,364	25,374
Diagnostic Microbiology	31,420	71,064	144,829
Parasitology	6,547	10,815	9,620
Food Microbiology	75	-0-	855
Water Microbiology	2,530	6,660	5,930
PSP	24,930	-0-	-0-
Water Chemistry	1,394	-0-	-0-
Survey Preparation ²	9,600	-0-	-0-
TOTAL	80,616	96,903	186,608

¹ Work Time Unit = The time in minutes required for a microbiologist to complete a test procedure. Does not include time required for setting up, media reagent preparation, and clerical support for test procedures.

² Proficiency Testing Program for Syphilis Serology.

TABLE 2: Shows technical staff by category, total technical staff, and total WTU performed from July 1 to October 31, 1980, and various WTU/staff ratio for the Regional Laboratories.

POSITIONS:	SERL	NRL	SCRL
Micro. IV	.5	0	.5
Micro. III	1	1	1
Micro. II	1	2	4.5
Lab. Assistants	2	3	3
Clerical	<u>1</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL STAFF	5.5	7.5	13
TOTAL WTU (TWTU)	80,616	96,903	186,608

RATIOS:

TWTU/total Micro.	32,246	32,301	[48,451] ¹	31,101
TWTU/total Lab. Asst.	40,308	32,301	[48,451]	62,202
TWTU/total clerical	80,616	64,602	[64,602]	46,652
TWTU/total staff	14,657	12,920	[17,618]	14,354

¹ Numbers in brackets show the impact on workload/staff ratio in the event of layoffs of Micro. II and Lab. Asst. II positions.

**Northern Regional Laboratory
Financial Request Summary**

FY '81

A. Authorize 24 months for two permanent full time positions, replacing the 24 months deleted from FY '81 final budget.		
B. Personnel (100):		
Projected Deficit		66.0
Equipment (500):		
Barnstead Still		5.3
IBM Typewriter		1.2
Laboratory Dishwashers		24.3
Refrigerator		.9
FA Microscope		12.5
		<hr/> 44.2
20% Inflation		8.8
		<hr/> 53.0
Travel (200)		
Training and Consultation:		5.0
		<hr/> 124.0

FY '82

A. Authorize 24 months for two permanent full time positions, replacing the 24 months deleted from FY '81 final budget.		
B. Personnel (100):		
Micro. II and Lab. Asst. II		66.3
Travel (200):		
Training and Consultation		5.0
		<hr/> 71.3

Historically, Alaska was divided into judicial districts during territorial days and district service areas evolved; i.e., Southeastern, Southcentral, and Northern Regional areas. Laboratories were established and provided basic diagnostic support in each regional area. Statehood and the subsequent growth of the State's needs fostered a shift in each laboratory's services; some became specialized to meet specific regional changes. Today, quality bacterial diagnostic service is available via the private sector and a shift is again evident; i.e., regional Public Health Laboratories are shifting to providing training and reference service, and less basic diagnostic service.

The Northern Regional Laboratory is comprised of two units, a bacteriology unit which serves all communities north of the Alaska Range, and the Virology-Rabies Unit serving each of the three regions.

The Bacteriology Unit processes a variety of specimens (34,800 annually) and performs approximately 45,144 tests each year. The following represent special areas of function and distribution of work:

Streptococcal specimens	23%
Syphilis serology	33%
Veneral disease program	28%
Reference bacteriology	10%
Diagnostic parasitology	4%
Diagnostic enteric bacteriology	2%

The Virology-Rabies Unit had its inception as a State entity in 1974, and prior to this date was a part of the Arctic Health Research Center, USPHS. This unit provides diagnostic viral services to clinicians, State and Federal agencies, and State and Federal epidemiologists. The Unit establishes diagnostic procedures advising physicians and agencies on a state-wide basis concerning availability of services, and consultation on specific cases of viral infection. The VRU

continues to work cooperatively with other agencies via limited/applied research to meet present and the future needs of Alaska.

Finally, during 1980, 3,700 diagnostic viral specimens were processed, 6,039 tests performed, and 20,179 viral host systems used (cell culture, eggs, and mice). There were 234 animals surveyed for rabies, and 54 positive animals. One hundred seventy-six individuals were exposed, but only 24 required treatment.

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

JAN 6 1981

TO: Harry Colvin, Ph.D.
Chief, Section of Laboratories
Pouch H-06D
Juneau, Alaska 99811

DATE : 31 December 1980

BRANCH OF PUBLIC
HEALTH LABORATORIES

FROM: Donald G. Ritter, Supervisor
Northern Regional Laboratory
Arctic Health Research Building
Room 233
University of Alaska campus
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

SUBJECT: Equipment specifications

The following is an equipment list to be forwarded to Representative Brian Rogers. It is divided into the equipment needed for the Bacteriology Unit and the Virology-Rabies Unit of the Northern Regional Laboratory.

BACTERIOLOGY UNIT EQUIPMENT:

Millipore Company Milli RO/ Milli Q Unit to replace the present Barnstead still **		
1 ea.	L/F Milli RO 60 ZR 2011560	\$ 2,527.00
1 ea.	L/F Milli Q 3 bowl ZD2011573	\$ 1,539.00
1 ea.	L/F Reagent water reservoir ZR 20-0055	\$ 672.00
1 ea.	L/F Rogard prefilter 4/pk CDPRO1204	\$ 66.70
1 ea.	Carbon cartridge 12 inch 4/pk CDFO1204	\$ 90.20
1 ea.	L/F Ion exchange cartridge 12 inch 4/pk CDMB-012-04	\$ 117.00
1 ea.	Twin 90 water unit 2/pk PMGS-090-02	\$ 26.90
1 ea.	Limit/liquid level switch 2RLT 02003	\$ 248.00
	Total...	\$ 5,286.80

1 ea. IBM Typewriter, Selectric III, which includes the following features: ** correction key and automatic correction tape; express back-space key; line type indicator; 2 extra symbol keys; large character keys (text red surface); Pica/Elite indicator; changeable typing element; and other routine typewriter functions such as tab, margin set and release, back space, index, shift and lock.

\$ 1,157.50

** These two items are to replace equipment which has a history of high frequency repair costs.

American Sterilizer Co. Pulsar 5000 (74 1/2 x 43 7/16 x 30 3/4") Laboratory Glassware Washer with vertical lift door. EY03-000-000, 230 volts, 60 Hz, freestanding.

Dishwasher accessories:

1 ea.	Spindle dolly EY 88-000-000-06 (64 spindles)	\$ 635.00
1 ea.	Rack, general purpose EY 88-000-000-10 (20 x 20)	\$ 89.00
1 ea.	Rack, 9-compartment EY 88-000-000-11 (20 x 20)	\$ 110.00

Continued on next page.

Dishwasher accessories continued:

8 ea.	Tube baskets EY 88-000-000-21 (6 x 6 x 6)	\$ 42.00
8 ea.	Covers, tube baskets EY 88-000-000-20 (6 x 6)	\$ 10.00
1 ea.	General purpose dolly EY 88-000-000-23	\$ 163.00
1 ea.	Water temperature booster EY 88-000-000-52	\$ 1,655.00
	Total...	<u>\$15,518.00</u>

1 ea.	Leitz/Boyle Instruments FA microscope and attachments; see attached pages for specifications.	<u>\$12,536.00</u>
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Bacteriology Unit Total \$34,498.30

VIROLOGY-RABIES UNIT EQUIPMENT:

1 ea.	Forma Dishwasher model #8658 - washer dryer, interior dimensions 18" x 18" x 18", (2) temperature selections - 140° for plasticware and 190° for glassware, adjustable wash, rinse and forced-air drying timers.	\$ 6,575.00
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The following are accessories for the dishwasher:

1 ea.	#162016 Spindle rack header with (9) spindles, 18" x 18"	\$ 345.00
1 ea.	#162018 Spindle rack header with (20) spindles, 18" x 18"	\$ 460.00
3 ea.	#114062 Open basket, 18" x 18" \$50.00/ea=	\$ 150.00
3 ea.	#114061 Multi-purpose basket, 18" x 18", used for odd-sized glassware \$53.00/ea=	\$ 159.00
8 ea.	#114063 Test tube basket, 9" x 9" \$53.00/ea=	\$ 424.00
8 ea.	#114095 Adjustable tops for test tube basket, 9" x 9" \$16.00/ea=	\$ 128.00
8 ea.	#114071 Test tube dividers, 9" x 9" \$11.00/ea=	\$ 88.00
9 ea.	#140950 Spindle flask support \$14.00/ea=	\$ 126.00
9 ea.	#140960 Spindle tube support \$ 3.00/ea=	\$ 27.00
20 ea.	#140965 General purpose support \$ 3.00/ea=	\$ 60.00
	Total...	<u>\$ 8,747.00</u>

1 ea.	Upright refrigerator (14 cu. ft.) with 2.4 cu. ft. freezer VWR #55699 - 977 ***	\$ 900.00
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*** Both items are to replace present equipment with histories of high repair costs.

Virology-Rabies Unit Total \$ 9,648.00

TOTAL FOR ALL EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR BOTH UNITS..... \$ 44,146.30

PR-

September 16, 1980

Department of Health & Social Services

Northern Regional Laboratory

Division of Public Health

Section of Laboratories

Arctic Health Research Bldg.

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Pam Gasaway

479-7756

P.O.E.

FOR OFFICE USE OF GENERAL SERVICES & SUPPLY ONLY

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS: FREIGHT OR PARCEL POST
Ship prepaid & indicate shipping charges as a separate item on invoice.

ITEM NO.	QUANTITY	WGT Cat. No.	QUOTATION #0241b	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	1 each	512 581	LEITZ DIALUX 20 PLOEM INCIDENT LIGHT FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPE WITH 2 EACH DICHROMATIC FILTER MODULES FOR FITC EXCITATION BROAD BAND AND NARROW BAND 1 EACH OPEN POSITION FOR TRANSMITTED LIGHT OR RETROFIT WITH AN ADDITIONAL DICHROMATIC FILTER MODULE; WITH RAPID CHANGE LOCK OUT LEVER FOR DOUBLE LABEL INVESTIGATIONS; WITH MERCURY VAPOR 100 WATT INCIDENT ILLUMINATION AND HALOGEN 100 WATT TRANSMITTED ILLUMINATION; EQUIPPED FOR BRIGHTFIELD AND DRY DARKFIELD TRANSMITTED ILLUMINATION WITH OBJECTIVES 10X THRU AND INCLUDING 100X; WITH PLANO FLUORITE 100X IRIS OBJECTIVE WITH NUMERICAL APERTURE RANGE 1.32-0.60 as follows:			
	1 each	512 581	Broad base microscope stand DIALUX 20 with coaxial dual knob coarse and fine focusing adjustment, vertical travel of 35mm, precision tube changing bayonet, tubes rotatable through 360 degrees, fine adjustment range 35mm without limit stops, centerable dovetail carrier for interchange of condensers with rack and pinion, centerable field diaphragm, base enclosed with provision for interchangeable light sources, built-in mechanical stage with scales and verniers and low set coaxial controls, 76 x 50mm and with filter slot		2441.00	2441.00
	1 each	512 584	Interchangeable quintuple revolving nosepiece with internal detent, mounted on precision dovetail slide		166.00	166.00
					TOTAL ALL PAGES	\$ 12536.00

CODE ENCUMBRANCE AGENCY SHALL COMPLETE

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PAGE NO. 1 OF 3 PAGES

SUGGESTED VENDOR:

Boyle Instruments

P.O. Box 574

Gig Harbor, Washington 98335

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE THE APPROPRIATION CITED HEREON IS SUFFICIENT COVER THIS PURCHASE AND THAT THIS PURCHASE AUTHORIZED HEREUNDER

NOTE: IF CUMULATIVE ACQUISITION LINES, USE PARALLEL LINES INSTEAD

REQUISITION APPROVAL

Pamela Gasaway
Exec. III, N.R.L.

DATE

PURCHASE REGISTRATION
CONTINUATION

DEPT. NO. FIG. NO.

* PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

PR-

QUANTITY	HEX. Cat. No.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
1 each	512 582	Interchangeable binocular observation tube S rotatable through 360 degrees, adjustable interpupillary distances 55mm to 75mm and 1X magnification factor individual diopter adjustment for each eyepiece tube, bayonet ring fixes horizontal viewing plane	724.00	724.00
1 each	513 463	PLOEMOPAK 2.4 for DIALUX 20, to be locked between the stand and the tube, centerable and focusable field diaphragm changing device for 3 filter blocks, dark slide for specimen protection and with filter slot	1760.00	1760.00
1 each	513 419	Filter system K-2 extremely narrow band blue at 495nm to eliminate auto-fluorescence (Rabies, G.C.)	727.00	727.00
1 each	513 417	Interchangeable filter cube module H2 for wide band blue light excitation, FITC excitation, and conventional blue light excitation with specimens exhibiting no, or moderate autofluorescence	707.00	707.00
2 each	514 577	Lamphousing 102z with bayonet mounting device, filter holder, centerable and focusable reflector via built-in control knobs, centerable mount socket via built in control knobs, adjustable collector and heat absorbing filter	579.00	1158.00
1 each	514 562	Socket for high pressure mercury burner 100W	274.00	274.00
1 each	050 249	Power supply for HBO 100W/XBO75W highly stabilized	998.00	998.00
1 each	500 138	High pressure mercury lamp HBO 100 watt high intensity	112.00	112.00
1 each	513 474	Standard condenser on precision dovetail slide for interchange, auxiliary lens swing in for Kohler illumination with 1.6x-100x objectives, accepts interchangeable Brightfield or Darkfield top elements on swing-in/out mount	318.00	318.00
1 each	513 465	Dry darkfield condenser top element D 0.80-0.95 mounts on swing-out carrier of SK or UK base to select darkfield or brightfield	312.00	312.00
1 each	514 558	Socket for halogen filament lamp 12V, 100W/102z	56.00	56.00
1 each	B112/100	Halogen filament lamp 12V, 100W	14.00	14.00
1 each	050 260	Regulating transformer with voltmeter 12V, 50-100W for connection to 110V, 60 cycles A.C. with color temperature/voltage graph.	152.00	152.00
1 each	514 565	Alignment mirror for filament centration precisely at the rear aperture plane	17.00	17.00

CONTINUATION

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PAGE 3

OF 3

PW.15

PR-

DEPT. NO.

REQ. NO.

QUANTITY	QUANTITY	UNIT Cat. No.	ITEM AND DESCRIPTION QUOTATION #0241B	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	1 each	512 595	Flexible protective dust cover	15.00	15.0
	1 each	519 615	Achromatic objective 10/0.25	107.00	107.0
	1 each	519 705	Achromatic objective 40/0.75 designed for fluorescence incident/transmitted	654.00	654.0
	1 each	519 652	Fluorite oil immersion objective, MPL Fluotar 100/1.32-0.60 oil, with built-in iris diaphragm with spring loaded mount	1580.00	1580.0
	2 each	519 748	GF 10X high eyepoint eyepiece field number 18 with screw on rubber eyecup/eyeglass guard	122.00	244.0
		000 002	Two hours of installation of microscope	N/C	N/C
		000 003	Three hours training and instruction by local factory trained representative	N/C	N/C

SB 139

Fairbanks Family and General Practice

A Professional Corporation

Dr. Cammack

Dr. Roth

Medical Dental Arts Building
1919 Lathrop, Suite 207
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

June 18, 1980

Dean F. Tirador, M.D.
Director, Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Social Services
Pouch H-06
Juneau, Ala.

Dear Dr. Tirador:

This letter is in follow up of my phone call to you today, expressing my concern in regards to the discontinuation of certain laboratory services at the State Lab here in Fairbanks. I am not sure I can concisely express my concerns and misgivings about the cut in budget in this area, but I will try to do so. For a number of years I have been concerned about the quality of bacteriology in Fairbanks outside of the State Lab. It has been proven to me repeatedly that the State Lab offers the best bacteriologic service in this area. I am currently involved as a consultant in Family Planning Clinic and see a considerable amount of gynecologic problems in my own practice. I have found the State Lab to provide prompt and accurate reports which have not proven to be available elsewhere in the community at this time.

It would appear as though this budget cut is going to seriously impair the ability for me to give quality

Fairbanks Family and General Practice

A Professional Corporation

Dr. Cammack

Dr. Roth

Medical Dental Arts Building

1919 Lathrop, Suite 207

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

care to my patients and I certainly intend to advise
my patients and the media of this occurrence should it
continue in effect.

When the State is spending millions of dollars in
far less important areas I cannot see why a budget cut
in the laboratory service was even considered except
that I suspect that certain persons who stand to gain
by increased revenue have had some strong and definite
effect on this decision.

When a service costs more than its value it
probably will not be utilized and that certainly
is the way I feel at this time in regards to bacter-
iology done in the private sector in Fairbanks.

As I indicated to you the only venereal diseases
that seem to be considered by the State at this time
are syphilis and gonorrhea. It is obvious to me as
a clinician that there are others far more common
which your department is trying to disregard, by
cutting out the bacteriologic service July 1st.
Specifically hemophilis vaginalis and group B beta strep
are currently identified and effectively treated on
the basis of culture reports done at the State Lab.
I hope you will reconsider and at least continue
identifying these organisms.

I spoke with Pat Rogers today at the Fairbanks
Health Center and she believed that there were probably
about 900 patients that go through VD clinic on a
yearly basis and approximately 4,000 patients seen at
Family Planning Clinic with evidence that there will be
considerable/increase in the number of patients seen there each year.

Fairbanks Family and General Practice
A Professional Corporation

Dr. Cammack Dr. Roth

Medical Dental Arts Building
1919 Lathrop, Suite 207
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

If the State Lab is unable to do cultures on these patients the cost to somebody is going to be considerably greater if it is done in the private sector. Again, I would indicate to you that the ability of the private sector to provide adequate laboratory services has not been proven to me at this time.

The number of welfare patients who have State Lab cultures done are either not going to get cultures, or the cost again will be considerably greater done in the private sector.

There are a number of private patients who do not have insurance and cannot afford the cost of private bacteriology diagnosis and these patients should also be considered as being neglected by your cut in service.

I feel like the rug has been pulled out from under me with this decision. There was never any contact from your office with me in regards to the effect of this move on my practice. I don't believe that your department should be operating in a fashion that disregards the Physicians and patients in Alaska.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Roth, M.D.

cc: Governor Jay Hammond, Juneau Alaska
Department of Health & Social Services
Division of Medical Assistance
Dr. Paul Frith, Regional Health Officer
Pat Rogers, RN PHS Nursing Supervisor Fairbanks
Dr. William James, Clinical Director ANHS Fairbanks
Editor, Daily News Miner

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

June 9, 1980

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

POUCH H-06
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3090

TO: All Physicians, Veterinarians, Clinics, Hospitals, Health Centers, and Clinical Laboratories

FROM: Dean F. Tirador, M.D. *Dean F. Tirador, M.D.*
Director, Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Social Services

SUBJECT: Reduction In Routine Clinical Microbiology And Immunohematology Laboratory Services.

Due to mandated reductions in the FY '81 operating budget for the Section of Laboratories and resulting reduction in personnel in each of the three regional laboratories, it is necessary to curtail the clinical microbiology and immunohematology laboratory services performed by the Southeastern (Juneau), Southcentral (Anchorage) and Northern (Fairbanks) Regional Laboratories. This action is necessary to stay within the departmental budgetary restraints placed upon the laboratories.

A. Effective July 1, 1980 the three Regional Laboratories will no longer accept primary specimens for diagnostic clinical microbiology as detailed below. The Regional Laboratories will accept bacterial isolates for identification and reference cultures from hospital and clinic laboratories.

Primary specimens that will not be accepted are:

1. Urine specimens for bacterial count, predominating organism and/or antibiotic sensitivity studies.
2. Wound, skin, pleural and body fluid specimens for bacterial identification and antibiotic sensitivity.
3. Nasopharyngeal and eye or ear cultures except in cases of suspected pertussis, diphtheria, gonorrhoea or streptococcus infections.
4. Primary animal specimens for diagnostic clinical microbiology except in cases of suspected zoonotic diseases transmissible to man.

Primary specimens relating to the state VD, tuberculosis, communicable disease control, streptococcus surveillance control, epidemiology and rabies control will continue to be accepted. The regional laboratories will continue to provide reference, consultation and training services to all local laboratories.

B. Effective July 1, 1980 the three Regional Laboratories will discontinue the immunohematology services covering ABO bloodtyping and RH studies. The ABO RH services will no longer be performed either as a routine or on special request on any specimen.

As the discontinued services are available in a majority of the local laboratories, the Section of Laboratories will be glad to work with these laboratories to insure a smooth transition and maintenance of quality control.

If there are any questions about the above changes, please feel free to contact me.

Fairbanks Family and General Practice

A Professional Corporation

FAIRBANKS
1919 Lathrop, Suite 207, Box 18
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 452-1987

DAVID CAMMACK, M.D.
MIKE HUTSON, P.A.-C.
JOE MARZUCCO, P.A.-C.
24 Hour Call 452-1987

NORTH POLE CLINIC
2nd & Santa Claus Lane, Box 5029
North Pole, Alaska 99705
(907) 488-2785

December 5, 1980

Charles Parr
SR Box 50599
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Parr:

This letter is in follow up of my conversation with you yesterday in regards to reduction of laboratory services, specifically at the Alaska State Lab located at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. In late June this year, health providers were advised that a cut in services available at the laboratory here in Fairbanks would be made. Since the legislative action had already occurred there was nothing I could do to change this action. I did correspond with Dr. Dean Hiersdere with the Division of Public Health in Juneau and will enclose both my letter to him and his reply. I also spoke with Dr. George Pauls who was the head of the State Laboratory services in early 1970. At that time he indicated that at the time the cut in funding was made Helen Barne advised him not to advise health providers of this pending cut in funding and the implications that it meant. I do not understand this sort of thinking or action on Dr. Barne's part.

Fairbanks Family and General Practice

A Professional Corporation

FAIRBANKS
1919 Lathrop, Suite 207, Box 18
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 452-1987

DAVID CAMMACK, M.D. ROBERT ROTH, M.D.
MIKE HUTSON, P.A.-C. MIKE BROWN, P.A.-C.
JOE MARZUCCO, P.A.-C.
24 Hour Call 452-1987

NORTH POLE CLINIC
2nd & Santa Claus Lane, Box 5029
North Pole, Alaska 99705
(907) 488-2785

In the past two days I have been advised by an employee of the State Lab in Fairbanks that further cut in services are contemplated because of lack of adequate funds. I would like at this time to ask that you investigate the reasons for the legislative action last year and implore that you do something to correct this problem. This has already created a serious obstacle for me to provide adequate care for my patients both in my private practice and at Family Planning Clinic where I am the preceptor for the Nurse Practitioners. The same implications apply to patients who do use the Fairbanks Health Center and Alaska Native Health Service. It also adds considerable cost to the State of Alaska in the increased charges for laboratory services done in the private sector which the State Lab has been performing on request.

At the present time, the bacteriology services in Fairbanks in the private sector are all overseen by the same Pathologists. In questioning certain Physicians about their satisfaction with bacteriology done by the private sector, I received particularly bad impressions with the Fairbanks Community Hospital bacteriology service. Some Physicians are either unaware or unconcerned about the accuracy of bacteriologic reporting, however, I do see many patients who in which I feel an accurate bacteriologic report is necessary in properly treating and caring for them and since the private sector has been unable to

Fairbanks Family and General Practice

A Professional Corporation

FAIRBANKS
1919 Lathrop, Suite 207, Box 18
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24 Hour Call 452-1987

NORTH POLE CLINIC
2nd & Santa Claus Lane, Box 5029
North Pole, Alaska 99705
(907) 488-2785

provide this service I am fearful of a significant decrease in my ability to provide proper care for my patients.

I have always felt that the State Laboratory in Fairbanks provided me with excellent, timely and accurate reports. I hope that you and your fellow legislators perhaps may be able to correct the legislation that caused decreased services last year and prevent further decrease in services in the Fairbanks area.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Roth, M.D.

cc: Governor Jay Hammond
Dick Randolph
Ken Fanning
Brian Rogers
Fred Brown

Sally Smith
Don Bennett
Paul Erith

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

Pouch H-06

~~POUCH H-06 JUNEAU 99801~~

Juneau, Alaska 99811

July 1, 1980

Robert A. Roth, M.D.
Medical Dental Arts Building
1919 Lathrop, Suite 207
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

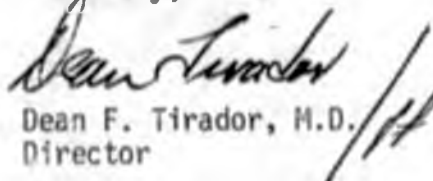
Dear Dr. Roth:

I have delayed in responding to your letter of June 18th until Dr. Pauls had a chance to talk with you during his visit to Fairbanks last week. I understand from his report that you were able to reach a satisfactory conclusion to the problem of vaginal cultures.

As Dr. Pauls explained, there were significant reductions in the laboratory budget for the fiscal year which begins July 1. For this reason, we had to find ways to economize while still maintaining essential public health laboratory services. We therefore eliminated certain clinical bacteriologic services which are ordinarily available through private laboratories. This reduction in service is state-wide and primarily affects the Fairbanks and Juneau laboratories since the Anchorage laboratory, in recent years, has been very little involved in clinical bacteriology.

I regret the problem this has caused you and also wish that more timely notice could have been given. However, the funding level which was ultimately approved by the Legislature was not known until the closing days of the session.

Sincerely,


Dean F. Tirador, M.D.
Director

DFT/j1

cc: Dr. Paul Frith, Regional Health Officer
Northern Regional Laboratory
Section of Laboratories

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

POUCH H 01 - JUNEAU 99811

document 5-81

Honorable Brian Rogers
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Re: Northern Regional Laboratory Funding

Your concern for laboratory funding problems and pending personnel layoffs in the Northern Regional Laboratory is understandable and I appreciate your efforts to assist us in maintaining appropriate laboratory services in your region. Perhaps I should first explain how the problem in the Fairbanks laboratory occurred. In preparation of the FY '81 budget it was necessary because of funding limitations to reduce personnel throughout the Department of Health and Social Services. It was felt by the Division of Public Health that certain laboratory testing services that were being performed by the Northern Regional Laboratory could be provided by the private sector. Thus, a request was made to the regional laboratory manager to estimate the number of positions that could be eliminated if certain testing procedures were eliminated from the Public Health Laboratory testing service. We were told that one Microbiologist II position and one Laboratory Assistant II position could be eliminated if some categories of clinical microbiology testing services were eliminated. A decision was then made by the management staff of the Health Division to eliminate these two positions. Our intention was to lay off positions in the area of clinical microbiology testing, however, upon receiving the layoff list we found that because of seniority the two virologists involved in virology testing unit were to be laid off. Unfortunately, the Northern Regional Laboratory did not have personnel trained nor immunized to work in the area of virology testing. Rabies vaccination and other immunizations schedules are necessary for safety of those working with this category of specimen. The layoff notices which had been sent to these individuals were rescinded and efforts during the coming months were made to find funding from other sources within the Department. In November the Chief, Section of Laboratories, Dr. Colvin did a personnel service cost projection for FY '81 and determined that there would be a short fall in his budget of approximately \$66,000 unless these positions were eliminated and the personnel laid off immediately. In an effort to balance his budget he reluctantly issued a lay off notices to these individuals which are now being processed.

Honorable Brian Rogers

-2-

In response to your request for information we have prepared a table showing the financial needs for the Northern Regional Laboratory including expenditures for capital equipment and travel for training purposes which we understand you requested from Mr. Don Ritter during your recent visit to the laboratory in December. I have also attached a copy of the equipment specifications submitted by Don Ritter, Regional Laboratory Manager, to Dr. Colvin, Chief, Section of Laboratories for your review.

It is also my understanding that you wish to use the laboratory budget to pass through funds for the University of Alaska Medical Library. We would be most happy to assist you in this financial arrangement.

We should also mention that in order to maintain the level of laboratory services it will be necessary to permanently restore these two positions to the laboratories FY '81 budget, plus funding in the FY '82 budget in the sum of \$66,300. This will most likely require a budget amendment to the FY '82 budget.

I hope this information will assist you in preparation of a supplemental appropriation and if my office can be of any further assistance please advise.

Sincerely,

Helen D. Beirne
Commissioner

Enclosures

Northern Regional Laboratory
Financial Request Summary

FY '81

A. Authorize 24 months for two permanent full time positions, replacing the 24 months deleted from FY '81 final budget.

B. Personnel (100):

Projected Deficit

66.0

Equipment (500):

Barnstead Still

5.3

IBM Typewriter

1.2

Laboratory Dishwashers

24.3

Refrigerator

.9

FA Microscope

12.5

44.2

20% Inflation

8.8

53.0

Travel (200)

Training and Consultation:

5.0

124.0

FY '82

A. Authorize 24 months for two permanent full time positions, replacing the 24 months deleted from FY '81 final budget.

B. Personnel (100):

Micro. II and Lab. Asst. II

66.3

Travel (200):

Training and Consultation

5.0

71.3

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SECTION OF LABORATORIES
POUCH H-06-D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: (907) 465-3140

February 3, 1981

DOCUMENT# 20-81

Honorable Charles H. Parr
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Parr:

This letter is to bring you up to date concerning our situation in the Section of Laboratories. We are pleased to report that the two persons in layoff positions are now being transferred to PCN's where they will not face this threat.

As part of the FY 81 budget exercise the Department of Health and Social Services selected 5 1/2 positions to delete from the Section of Laboratories budget. These were PCN's 06-1204, 06-1497, 06-1338, 06-1168, 06-1134 and half of 06-1506. Except for the two positions in Fairbanks, all of the above were vacated or an equivalent position in the particular regional laboratory was kept vacant. At the present time the final paperwork is being submitted to properly clear these positions.

For the record I have listed the steps being taken to implement these actions.

1. PCN 06-1204 Chemist (Juneau). This position has been vacant since July 1, 1980. The proper forms are being submitted to delete the PCN from our employee roster.
2. PCN 06-1497 Microbiologist (Juneau). This position has been vacant since July 1, 1980. The proper forms are being submitted to delete the PCN from our employee roster.
3. PCN 06-1338 Laboratory Assistant I (Juneau). This position is filled. The paperwork is being submitted to transfer the incumbent to PCN 06-1336, an equivalent position that has been kept vacant since July 1, 1980. Paperwork is also being submitted to delete PCN 06-1338 from our employee roster.

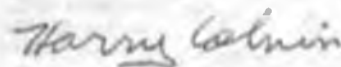
February 3, 1981

4. PCN 06-1506 Microbiologist (Anchorage). This position was reduced from a permanent full time position to a permanent part time. The position has been filled on a half time basis since July 1, 1980. The paperwork to reflect this change is being submitted.
5. PCN 06-1168 Laboratory Assistant II (Fairbanks). The incumbent of this position is being transferred to PCN 06-1380 effective February 15, 1981. The present incumbent of PCN 06-1380 has submitted her resignation. Paperwork is being submitted to eliminate PCN 06-1168 from our employee roster.
6. PCN 06-1334 Microbiologist II (Fairbanks). We are downgrading a midlevel supervisory Microbiologist III position (PCN 06-1347) to a Microbiologist II. We are transferring the incumbent of PCN 06-1448 (a Microbiologist II) into this position. We will then transfer the incumbent of PCN 06-1334 into PCN 06-1448. This will leave PCN 06-1334 vacant. Paperwork is being submitted to delete PCN 06-1334 from our employee roster.

These actions will bring us into compliance with the intent of the FY 81 budget. As the situation now stands we are short two critical positions in our Fairbanks Laboratory. Also, by downgrading the Microbiologist III we are severely restricting the proper supervision of the activities of the virology laboratory in addition to overworking the existing staff. Efforts to reduce workloads in the Northern Regional Laboratory have already been undertaken. For example, the tuberculosis microbiology specimen workload has been moved to the Anchorage Laboratory for processing. We are now looking for other categories to transfer. Because of the PCN deletions, we must further reduce workloads in the Northern Region to a level within the capability of the remaining staff.

If you have any questions on the substance of this letter or if you request any information pertaining to the Section of Laboratories please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Harry Colvin, PhD.
Section of Laboratories
Division of Public Health

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

1650 Cowles St.

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

OPERATED BY
LUTHERAN HOSPITALS AND HOMES SOCIETY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 58102

December 31, 1980

Dean Tirador, M.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services
Pouch F01
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Dean,

SB 139
We would like to lend our support to the concept of consolidating and centralizing some of the functions of the State Laboratories. For a number of years, we have advocated that the State curtail the practice of providing routine laboratory services in the Fairbanks area primarily because these services are and have been available for a number of years from local laboratories within the Fairbanks community. The major portion of the so called "reference" laboratory work is also easily available, again either locally or through channels that do not require services of the State Laboratory. We believe that the function of the State Laboratory lies in the area of infectious disease surveillance, epidemiology, TB control, and virology. These functions could be centralized in Anchorage. However, it seems to us that because Fairbanks already has an excellent virology facility manned by competent personnel, it would be a mistake for this function to be transferred to Anchorage. On the other hand, we do support your efforts to transfer the culturing and identification of Mycobacteria to the Anchorage State Lab providing that we can continue to receive prompt service and of a suitable quality.

Hopefully you will find these comments helpful.

Sincerely,

D.D. Failoni

D.D. Failoni, M.D.
Pathologist

R.F. Harding

R.F. Harding, M.D.
Pathologist

J.N. Joy

J.N. Joy, M.D.
Pathologist

DDF:ms

cc: Harry Colvin, M.D.

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

1650 Cowles St.

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

OPERATED BY
LUTHERAN HOSPITALS AND HOMES SOCIETY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 58102

December 10, 1980

Senator Charles H. Parr
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

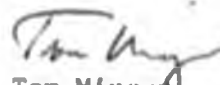
Dear Senator Parr:

Thank you for attending our luncheon recently. I do appreciate you giving us the time to express our views on certain issues.

One of the questions that you asked me was concerning the state laboratory located here in Fairbanks. At the time I did not know a great deal about staffing and reductions and so forth, but since that time I have received a letter from the state lab regarding a reduction in staff. Hope this might be helpful in your pursuit of the problem.

We will look forward to working with you in the legislature this coming year.

Sincerely,



Tom Minger
Administrator

TM/mw

MSG 81-00000510 PRTY 3 01/13/81 11:49:35 ORIG: LF00 IN= 0005 OUT= 0024
FROM: ANNIE IN FAIRBANKS TO: REP. ROGERS, SEN. PARR &
TARGET: LJH2 SUBJ: SEN. BENNETT PAGE 0001

REQUEST FROM SUE BOYLE, KTVF IN FAIRBANKS

PLEASE CALL HER AT 452-4704 RE: POSSIBLE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION
BILL TO KEEP VIROLOGY LAB IN FAIRBANKS GOING AT FULL STAFF.

SB 88 - Schol revolving loan fund
89 - Child abuse - HESS/Fin
90 - Sol SA/Jud

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. Senate Bill No. 139
 Title An Act making a special appropriation to the Department Health & Social Services
 Requested by Commissioner's Office Date _____

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health & Social Services
 Program Category Affected Health/Division of Public Health
 BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected Laboratories

(Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	15.7	65.7	68.8	74.3	80.2	86.7
200 TRAVEL	3.0	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.6	8.2
300 CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
400 COMMODITIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
500 EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
600 LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	18.7	69.7	75.3	81.3	87.8	94.9

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
GENERAL FUND	18.7	69.7	75.3	81.3	87.8	94.9
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	18.7	69.7	75.3	81.3	87.8	94.9

POSITIONS

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
FULL TIME	2	2	2	2	2	2
PART TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

Assume an inflation rate of 8%.

IV. DATE _____ PREPARED BY David Bruce, Deputy Director
 AGENCY Public Health
 PHONE 465-3000
 Original: Legislative Finance
 cc: Budget and Management
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

David Bruce

POSITION PAPER

Senate Bill No. 139

"An act making a special appropriation to the Department of Health and Social Services for two positions at the Fairbanks Northern Regional Laboratories and providing for an effective date."

SB No. 139 provides a special appropriation to cover the costs of a Microbiologist II and a Laboratory Assistant II in our Fairbanks Virology and Microbiology Laboratories and for travel monies to be used in the training of these positions.

In the preparation of the FY 81 operating budget we calculated that by eliminating certain workloads in the Fairbanks Laboratory we could reduce our staffing from 13.5 positions to 11.5. This workload reduction has not materialized. The majority of the water microbiology has been turned over to private laboratories. The Tuberculosis Program and Beta Strep Program have been transferred to our Anchorage Laboratory. This still has not reduced our workload to allow for the elimination of a Microbiologist II and a Laboratory Assistant II.

We are requesting that a sum of \$88,400 be appropriated for the salaries and associated costs of a Microbiologist II and a full-time Laboratory Assistant II. This sum is to be split in the following manner; \$18,700 for the last quarter of FY 81 and \$69,700 for FY 82.

It is recommended the following changes be made:

line 11 - change the sum of money (\$71,300) to \$88,400.

line 14 - add the following after "laboratory." "Of this sum \$18,700 is to be added to the FY 81 operating budget and \$69,700 is to be added to the FY 82 operating budget. These positions are to be part of the FY 83 Laboratories operating budget."

The Department supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 139 amended as recommended above.

Recommended by:

David Bruce
David Bruce, Deputy Director
Division of Public Health

Date:

February 11, 1981

Approved by:

Helen D. Beirne
Helen D. Beirne
Commissioner

Date:

2/11/81