

SB

48

SFIN

FILE

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 465-3532

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 16, 1997

The Honorable Mike Miller
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Miller:

As part of the budget package I am presenting to the legislature today, I am transmitting this separate appropriation bill for the state's integrated, comprehensive mental health program. I have included a report explaining the differences between the appropriation bill and the recommendations of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

This bill provides \$114,993,700 for mental health programs throughout the state. Included in this amount is \$6,097,200 from the Trust Authority's authorized and administration receipts which would be administered by various state agencies according to the mental health bill appropriations listed in Section 3. Section 2 of the bill provides that if these mental health trust receipts fall short of the estimates, the Section 3 appropriations will be reduced by the amount of the shortfall.

The mental health trust litigation settlement included a requirement that mental health program appropriations be made through a bill separate from the rest of the operating budget and consider the Trust Authority recommendations. This is the second year in which the authority and four beneficiary planning boards (the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Alaska Commission on Aging, and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education) have worked together to develop recommendations for the mental health program.

This bill reflects the progress being made toward a truly comprehensive and integrated mental health plan because of the partnership forged between the state, the Trust Authority, the planning boards and the mental health trust beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Knowles".

Tony Knowles
Governor