

SB

154

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 154
 (S) Publish Date: 3/29/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 Title: Sunset of Designated Evaluation and Treatment Program BRU: Community Mental Health Grants
 Component: Designated Eval & Treatment
 Sponsor: Sen. Kelly
 Requester: Senate (HES) Component Number: 1014

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	582.1					
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1007 I/A Receipts	723.7	723.7	723.7	723.7	723.7	723.7
1037 GF/Mental Health	1,146.3	1,728.4	1,728.4	1,728.4	1,728.4	1,728.4
1092 MHTAAR	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0
TOTAL	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1	2,652.1

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal: X

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*
ALL FUNDING FOR DET IS INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET. This bill allows for the continuation of Designated Evaluation and Treatment services covered in the FY02 Governor's Request. These statutes (sunset date July 1, 2001) establish consistent methods for the Department to pay for voluntary or involuntary inpatient psychiatric services for individuals who pose a danger to themselves or others because of mental illness, or who are gravely impaired by mental health systems, and who have no third party payor and cannot afford the high cost of hospitalization. The provision of these services in local communities fits with the objectives of serving consumers close to home. Federal laws have reduced the % of the \$10 million in Disproportionate Share Hospital funds that have been available to API on an annual basis since the 1980s. This "frees up" the balance of the DSH funds for other special needs populations served by qualifying hospitals. The DET assistance program is a logical, eligible recipient of these funds.

Prepared by: Sarah Brinkley, Admin Manager Phone 465-3167
 Division: DMHDD Date/Time 1/0/00 12:00 AM
 Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Special Assistant Date 3/22/01 10:12 AM
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

ANALYSIS: (continued)

Of the total \$2,652.1 DET budget for FY02, \$2,392.1 was in the FY02 Governor's Request and \$723.7 was added through the FY02 Governor's Amended Request.

Breakdown of FY02 DET projections:

Grants - \$260.0

Fee for Service - \$2,392.1

Fairbanks \$1,262.1

Juneau \$ 641.6

Mat-Su \$ 237.1

Ketchikan \$ 99.9

Anchorage \$ 60.3

YKHC \$ 55.2

other \$ 35.9

*Note: The DET component's FY02 budget contains, in addition to the above \$2,652.1 authority for projected needs, another \$142.8 in excess federal authority on the books for potential unanticipated future federal awards.

SENATE BILL NO. 154
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR KELLY

Introduced: 3/21/01

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to mental health treatment facilities; repealing the termination date of
2 the mental health treatment assistance program; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * Section 1. Sections 2, 4, 6, and 9, ch. 87, SLA 1999, are repealed.

5 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

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2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

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 Division: DMHDD Date/Time 1/0/00 12:00 AM
 Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Special Assistant Date 3/27/01 10:12 AM
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

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Alaska State Legislature

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-2327
Fax: (907) 465-5241



Interim:
119 N. Cushman
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 456-8161

Senator Pete Kelly
District P

SB154

“An Act relating to mental health treatment facilities; repealing the termination date of the mental health treatment assistance program; and providing for an effective date.”

SB154 would repeal the sunset clause on a bill that passed in 1999 that created the Designated Evaluation Program. This program provides treatment through local hospitals for people who are in mental crisis. These individuals are working poor people who have no insurance or Medicaid coverage, who cannot afford hospitalization and who meet certain eligibility requirements.

If the sunset clause is not repealed, the following will be lost:

- Description of application, application review and appeal procedures
- Authorization of the department to establish eligible services and reimbursement rates
- Description of procedures for payment for the services provided
- Clarification of language and definitions to accurately reflect statutory intent
- Clarification of the responsibilities of the Department
- Language that establishes who is eligible for assistance for inpatient services:
 - ❑ Individuals who meet criteria for commitment under current statutes (i.e. danger of harming self or others or gravely disables as a result of mental illness, and is likely to improve with treatment)
 - ❑ Individuals whose household income is below 185% of federal poverty guidelines for Alaska and who have no other third party payer

SB 154 would remove the sunset clause and extend the program indefinitely. Without this change, individuals in need of treatment would have to be transported to Alaska Psychiatric Institute or held in correctional facilities.

All of this is due to sunset July 1, 2001, sending the program back to it's original vague and problematic state.

Alaska State Legislature

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Interim:
119 N. Cushman
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Phone: (907) 456-8161

Senator Pete Kelly
District P

Senate Bill 154 Sectional Analysis

"An Act relating to mental health treatment facilities; repealing the termination date of the mental health treatment assistance program; and providing for an effective date."

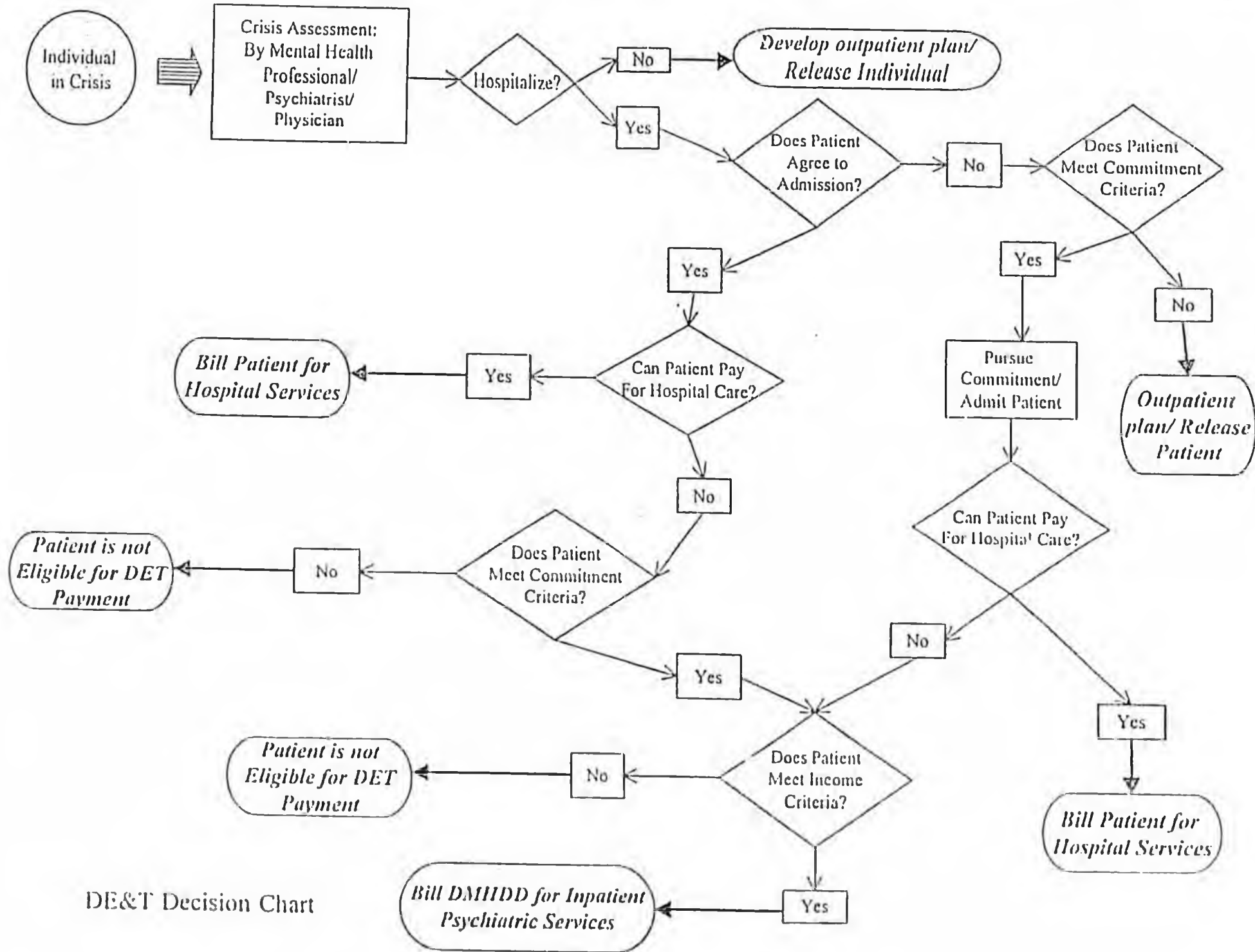
This bill repeals the sunset clause for the Designated Evaluation and Treatment program (DET).

Section 1. of the bill repeals the sunset provisions Sections 2, 4, 6, and 9 of ch. 87 SLA 1999. Those current sections that would be removed cover:

- the clarification of liability for expenses of placement in a treatment facility, (Section 2.)
- the clarification of the definition of "designated treatment facility", (Section 4.)
- clearly defines the eligibility and procedures of the DET program. (Section 6.):
 - Applicability
 - Eligibility for assistance
 - Application for assistance
 - Decision on eligibility
 - Eligible services rates
 - Payment
 - Appeal
 - Regulations
 - Definitions
- Established an effective date of sunset as July 1, 2001 (Section 9.)

Section 2 of this bill causes the repeal to take effect immediately.

If the sunset occurs, then it reinstates the vague language that led to confusion and inconsistencies in managing the program. These problems led to a lawsuit which prompted the statutory change.



DE&T Decision Chart

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
CENTRAL OFFICE

P.O. BOX 110620
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0620
PHONE: (907) 465-3370
FAX: (907) 465-2668
TDD: (907) 465-2225
TOLL FREE: 1-800-465-4828

March 16, 2001

The Honorable Pete Kelly
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

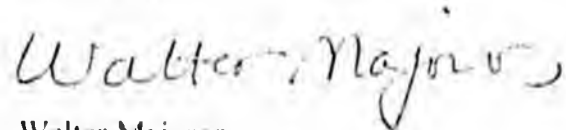
Dear Senator Kelly:

Thank you for your continuing support of the Designated Evaluation and Treatment (DET) program. The DET program is a critical component in the continuum of mental health services in Alaska, particularly for indigent persons with mental illnesses who are being civilly committed, or meet the criteria for civil commitment. Through this program, many poor people with mental illness who do not qualify for Medicaid are able to receive services in community hospitals across the state, closer to their families and local support systems. Without the DET program, it would be necessary to transport many consumers in crisis to Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) to receive evaluation and treatment services.

Consumers have advocated aggressively for receiving community-based services in the least restrictive environments. The Division is responding by creating local and regional systems of care for persons experiencing mental illnesses. We would like to limit the use of API to those psychiatric crises that exceed the ability of local communities to address. The DET program provides a stable, predictable reimbursement structure for community hospitals to proactively address these crises for persons who lack other means to pay for services. This in turn allows many communities in Alaska to develop a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing local mental health emergencies.

Without new legislation to extend its existence, the current clarifying statutory language of the DET program will expire as of July 1, 2001, plunging the program back into vagueness and confusion. We strongly encourage the passage of this legislation, and again thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Walter Majoros
Director

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

*DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES*

ALASKA PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE
2900 PROVIDENCE DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508-4677
PHONE: (907) 269-7100
FAX: (907) 269-7251

March 16, 2001

The Honorable Pete Kelly
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol – Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Kelly:

I am writing to express the support of the management of Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) for continuation of the legislation authorizing payments to designated evaluation and treatment (DET) hospitals across the State of Alaska who provide inpatient psychiatric services to Alaskans who meet statutory criteria for inpatient treatment.

As you know, API is the State's only public hospital. Our mission is to provide an appropriate array of quality, inpatient psychiatric services for the treatment of Alaskans with psychiatric disorders who meet admission criteria. API's patients come from all around the State.

One of our major and ongoing concerns is the admission pressure on the facility. Between FY95 and FY00, API's admissions have increased 56%, while our bed capacity has actually decreased to our present capacity of 74 beds. The attached graph demonstrates the impact on treatment capacity (higher admissions, shorter lengths of stay). Because our bed capacity is limited and the admissions frequent, we are required to discharge patients quickly, leading to criticism from some community mental health service providers that the hospital stays of the persons admitted to API are too short and that patients are discharged before they are ready to return to their communities.

However, API treatment staff truly have no choice but to discharge the majority of our patients relatively quickly because otherwise our beds would quickly fill up with patients with longer hospital stays and our patient census would not only quickly reach our supposed maximum capacity of 74 but soon seriously exceed the beds available (we have been as high as 88 in the last year or so).

Therefore, the reason API fully supports DET legislation is that it encourages local community hospitals to admit and treat persons experiencing a mental health crisis in their community of residence rather than transporting these individuals to API.

Page Two – Senator Pete Kelly – March 16, 2001

When we look at the annual increase in the number of API admits, we consider ourselves fortunate indeed that the DET statute has actually reduced referrals to API from the communities of Juneau and Fairbanks, and more recently from Kodiak and Nome.

Without the willingness of these hospitals to provide DET services, many of the persons admitted in the last few years to Bartlett Memorial Hospital in Juneau or Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, for example, would have been transported from their community (often in handcuffs!) and admitted to API instead, only further substantially increasing admission pressure on API.

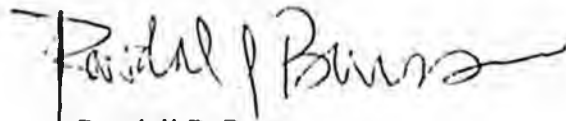
However, as a result of the provisions of the DET legislation, admissions from Juneau remain very low and, with the recent opening of the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital's expanded psychiatric unit, the admissions from Fairbanks to API have dropped substantially. This has been a real success story.

My concern would be, should the statutory authority to reimburse DET hospitals be allowed to sunset, that local hospitals would soon cease providing this service and the persons experiencing a mental health emergency requiring hospital-level care who now are able to be treated in their home community, near family and friends, would be transported to API for admission and treatment, neither a therapeutic or cost-effective solution.

I understand that you are supportive of continuing this important service to Alaskans with mental illnesses, and I provide this letter to you to demonstrate to you the present value of funded DET services to API. If these local services were not present, API would itself soon need additional budget funds to staff and operate the hospital to its increasing capacity.

If I can be of further assistance to you, or if you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. And thank you for this opportunity to comment on the value of the DET legislation to API.

Respectfully yours,



Randall P. Burns
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Anne Henry, DMHDD

SEVEN (FISCAL) YEAR DATA COMPARISON
Alaska Psychiatric Institute

	<u>FY94</u> <u>(114 Beds)</u>	<u>FY95*</u> <u>(79 Beds)</u>	<u>FY96</u> <u>(79 Beds)</u>	<u>FY97</u> <u>(79 Beds)</u>	<u>FY98</u> <u>(79 Beds)</u>	<u>FY99</u> <u>(79 Beds)</u>	<u>FY00**</u> <u>(74 Beds)</u>	<u>Increase</u> <u>from FY95</u> <u>to FY00</u>
Admissions	1,052	946	1,164	1,258	1,352	1,350	1,480	56%
Discharges	1,043	984	1,161	1,266	1,333	1,361	1,487	51%
Inpatient Days	35,144	23,208	23,382	25,403	25,421	26,205	23,260	0%
Highest Daily Census	112	72	71	91	84	88	80	
Lowest Daily Census	82	56	56	51	51	55	49	
Average Daily Census	96	64	64	70	70	72	64	
ALOS ***	21 (28)	15 (35)	13 (18)	13 (21)	13 (18)	13 (21)	10 (22)	

* Following a substantive budget cut, API down-sized from 114 beds to 79 beds in late 1994

** As a part of the API 2000/Community Mental Health Project, following the placement of a number of long-term patients in a residential program operated through ASSETS in Anchorage, effective January 1, 2000, API reduced its bed capacity on its longer term patient unit (Katmai) by five beds, thus reducing API's total bed capacity to 74.

*** "ALOS" means the *average length of stay* for a patient at API; the top number provided in this row does not include any patient at API whose stay exceeded six months. Patients with lengths of stay in excess of six months are generally treated on API's Katmai Unit, where their complex treatment or placement needs, or their legal status, frequently require stays in excess of six months and often many years; it also will include any patient on API's Taku Unit whose treatment needs may require stays that extend beyond six months. The bottom number in parentheses in this row reflects a LOS that includes all patients, regardless of their length of stay at the hospital.



Denali Center
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Banner Health Systems

Denali Center 1510 19th Avenue Fairbanks, AK 99701 (907) 458-5100	Fairbanks Memorial Hospital 1650 Cowles Street Fairbanks, AK 99701-5903 (907) 452-8181 Fax (907) 458-5324
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March 26, 2001

Senator Pete Kelly
State Capitol, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Kelly:

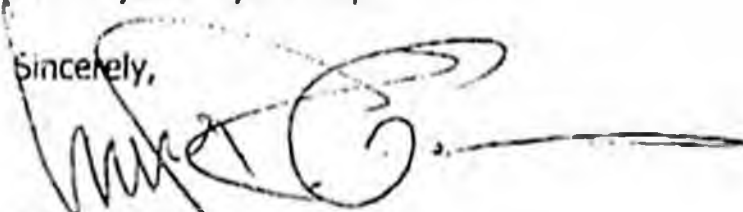
As you know, Fairbanks and other sole-hospital communities across Alaska have struggled with providing quality local hospitalization for mentally ill adults. With your help over the past several years, Fairbanks, Juneau and Bethel have made great strides in taking care of local residents, and have significantly reduced the burden we have placed on Anchorage in our ability to treat mental health patients in our local communities.

Last year Fairbanks' public health and safety agencies reduced the number of mental health patients transferred to Alaska Psychiatric Institute from 75 to 5, dramatically impacting the cost, inconvenience and level of care provided to these patients.

Thank you for championing SB-154. Repealing the sunset clause of the current Designated Evaluation and Treatment program profoundly and favorably impacts the care of and the cost to the mentally ill in Fairbanks, and across Alaska.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,


Mike Powers
Administrator
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

F.M.H./D.C. MEDICAL STAFF
 FAIRBANKS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL/DENALI CENTER
 1650 COWLES STREET
 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

2001 OFFICERS:

RICHARD HATTAN, M.D.
 PRESIDENT/CHIEF OF STAFF
 TIMOTHY TESLOW, M.D.
 VICE PRESIDENT
 DAVID WRIGLEY, M.D.
 SECRETARY/TREASURER
 RICHARD HUTCHISON, M.D.
 IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
 RICHARD CORDEN, M.D.
 CHAIR, BYLAWS COMMITTEE

DAVID FLORY, M.D.
 CHAIR, ANESTHESIA
 ART STRAUSS, M.D.
 CHAIR, EMERGENCY MEDICINE
 CORRINE LEISTIKOW, M.D.
 CHAIR, FAMILY PRACTICE
 KENNETH STARKS, M.D.
 CHAIR, INTERNAL MEDICINE
 DENNIS HARTUNG, M.D.
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 JOHN JOOSSE, M.D.
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 TIM TESLOW, M.D.
 CHAIR, SURGERY
 MARK BUTCHER, M.D.
 CHAIR, CLERK COMMITTEE

CAROL PHILLIPS, M.D.
 JEFFREY ZUCKERMAN, M.D.
 FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVES

R. Duane Hopson, M.D.
Director of Mental Health

March 26, 2001

Senator Pete Kelly
 State Capitol, Room 518
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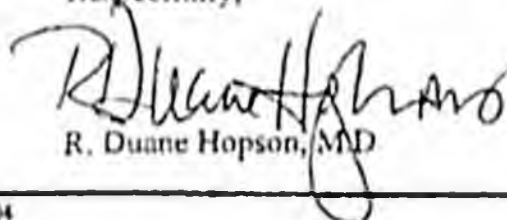
Dear Senator Kelly,

I am writing to you to request your support of SB-154, which I believe is vital to the continued growth of Mental Health not only in Fairbanks but also throughout the Interior. The funds made available through this Bill will continue to support the efforts begun two years ago and assure ongoing growth and development of a Mental Health system throughout the State.

A current area of growth has been in the expansion of an inpatient unit here at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, which has allowed for the provision of psychiatric care locally rather than in distant communities. The number of transfers from Fairbanks to Alaska Psychiatric Institute has significantly dropped and the development of an acute care milieu and philosophy on the Mental Health Unit both attest to the changes that are being made. Future plans include growth in the areas of partial hospitalization and outpatient services to complete the network of services as we develop a comprehensive mental health system for the Interior.

I hope that you will continue to support the efforts of our community and the growth of Mental Health in Alaska with SB-154.

Respectfully,


 R. Duane Hopson, M.D.



Denali Center
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Banner Health Systems

Denali Center	Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
1510 19th Avenue	1650 Cowles Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701	Fairbanks, AK 99701-5098
(907) 458-5100	(907) 452-8181
	Fax (907) 458-5324

March 23, 2001

Honorable Pete Kelly
State Senate

Dear Senator Kelly:

Regarding SB-154, I strongly encourage support of its passage this session, for the following reasons:

- The bill repeals the sunset clause of the mental health treatment assistance program, established two years ago as part of the reform of the state mental health program.
- The Designated Evaluation and Treatment Program (DET) promotes access to hospital care for mentally ill individuals as close to home as possible.
- This bill provides for the local hospitalization of mentally ill individuals who would otherwise be committed to API.
- Family members and local community providers would be involved in hospital care and discharge planning.
- This would result in shorter length of stays and more realistic follow-up care recommendations.
- Fairbanks Memorial Hospital recently expanded its psychiatric unit in order to meet the needs of individuals who formerly were sent to API.

As you can clearly see, the success of the efforts over the last two years would be lost if the program is sunsetted and Alaska returns to its former way of doing business. I ask that you voice my vote of strong support of the passage of SB-154.

Sincerely,

RICHARD HATTAN, M.D.
Chief of Staff
Medical/Dental Staff of
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital/Denali Center

EMERGENCY MEDICINE ASSOCIATES, P.C.

President, Carol J. Phillips, M.D., FACEP

P.O. Box 80848
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708-0848
Phone (907) 479-5117
Fax (907) 479-5110

MEMORANDUM

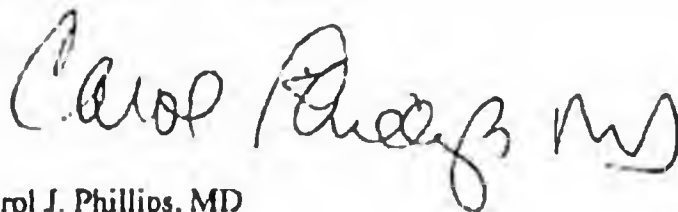
To: All Alaska Senators and Representatives
From: Emergency Medicine Associates, PC
Date: March 24, 2001
Subject: Designated Evaluation and Treatment Program

The Designated Evaluation and Treatment program is vital to the treatment of our community's mentally ill patients.

As you are making your decision whether to pass SB-154, please keep in mind that patients need to be near family who know and care for them. Local doctors are familiar with our community's patients and can work in conjunction with patients' families to plan treatments accordingly.

Please-- I recommend strongly that you pass SB-154.

Thank you for your time.



Carol J. Phillips, MD



INTERIOR
NEIGHBORHOOD
HEALTH
CLINIC

1949 Gillam Way, Suite D
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 455-4567
Fax: (907) 455-7675
TTY: (907) 455-4507

March 25, 2001

Senator Pete Kelly
117 North Cushman Suite 201
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Pete
Dear Senator Kelly:

One in 5 adults has a diagnosable mental disorder and one in four families will have a member with mental illness. Meeting the mental health needs of our communities remains one of the greatest challenges for healthcare providers. Many individuals needing treatment are unable to work because of their illness and will not seek needed inpatient treatment for fear of large medical bills, although they may be at risk of endangering themselves or others.

We urge you to support SB-154 introduced by Senator Kelly. The bill repeals the sunset clause of the mental health treatment assistance program. This program was established two years ago as part of the reform of the state mental health program. It provides for the local hospitalization of mentally ill individuals who would otherwise be committed to API. In many instances, this includes traveling from Fairbanks to Anchorage through the judicial system. This option can be frightening and detrimental to someone already suffering from mental illness. With the expansion of the mental health unit at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital from 9-20 beds, the need to transport patients' through the judicial system to API has drastically been reduced.

The Designated Evaluation and Treatment Program (DET) promotes access to hospital care for mentally ill individuals as close to home as possible. Involvement of family members and local community providers in hospital care and discharge planning results in shorter length of stays, more realistic follow-up care and local family support.

The 1998 statute clearly defines the boundaries of the program while encouraging local hospitals to take a greater role in providing care for the civilly committed patients. The success of the efforts over the last two years would be lost if the program is sunsetted and Alaska returns to its former way of doing business. By passing SB-154 before June 2001, access to local mental health care in Fairbanks and Alaska will continue the strengthening of local programs that began with the inception of the original bill.

Please contact me if I may provide further information.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Kilgore

**NAMI of Fairbanks****P.O. BOX 72543 FAIRBANKS, AK 99707 PH: 907-456-4704****FAX: 907-456-3593 e-mail: fami@mosquionet.com**

March 26, 2001

Senator Pete Kelly
State Capitol, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Kelly:

I strongly support the passage of SB-154 by the legislature this session.

The Designated Evaluation and Treatment Program (DET) encourages local treatment of the mentally ill by community hospitals. Prior to the state mental health reforms of 1998 mentally ill individuals were sent to API. The 1998 statute provides guidelines for extent of treatment to be given, as well as urging hospitals to offer expanded services for the mentally ill of their community. The sunset clause for the DET will go into effect at the end of June 2001.

As advocates of the mentally ill in the Fairbanks Community we supported the increased size and scope of Fairbanks Memorial Hospital's psychiatric unit in order to facilitate care of Fairbanks' mentally ill individuals. Family support of a mentally ill patient is important to their recovery and decreases the patient's length of stay. By allowing patients to remain in the care of their community provider, the patient will receive the optimum continuum of care during and following hospitalization.

The mental health assistance program is responsible for two years of progress in psychiatric treatment. However, these two years of effort and progress will count for little if the sunset clause is allowed to go into effect. Please join us in supporting the passage of SB-154.

I enjoyed meeting you this last week and am pleased at your sincere regards of mental health issues. Keep up the good work, and I feel I have a friend in Juneau. Thank-You.

Sincerely,

Jackie Pananen

President

NAMI of Fairbanks, Alaska, Inc



Denali Center
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Banner Health Systems

Denali Center
1510 19th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
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March 26, 2001

Senator Pete Kelly
State Capitol, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Kelly:

This letter is written in support of SB-154. Before making any decisions in regard to this bill, I urge that the legislature review the following information.

- SB-154 concerns the sunset provision of the mental health treatment assistance program statute, which was instituted in 1998 as a part of the state mental health reform program.
- This statute and its' corresponding program, the Designated Evaluation and Treatment Program (DET), encourages hospitalization for the mentally ill in their home community. Under this statute mentally ill individuals are hospitalized locally, instead of being sent to API.
- Treating mentally ill individuals in or near their home communities allows for family participation in treatment, as well as access to providers familiar with resources available to the individual after discharge. This results in shorter lengths of stays and more practical post-hospitalization planning.
- In response to this statute and to the needs of the community, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital has upgraded its psychiatric unit to accommodate local hospitalization of mentally ill individuals and we plan for the future growth in meeting the needs of the mentally ill.

Supporting these efforts will continue to assure the ongoing growth and development of a strong mental health system throughout the state.

In conclusion, I hope you will recognize the importance of supporting this bill in order to provide quality patient care to the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Karl H. Sanford, RN
Assistant Administrator
Inpatient Services

ACMHSA

**Alaska Community Mental Health
Services Association
3050 Fifth Avenue
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901**

March 26, 2001

Senator Pete Kelly
Capitol Room 518
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: SB 154

Dear Senator Kelly,

The Alaska Community Mental Health Services Association (ACMHSA) supports your legislation SB 154 which repeals the sunset for the DET program.

ACMHSA is a statewide association representing all of the non-profit mental health providers in the state. We support this legislation and commend your leadership with this important mental health issue.

Sincerely,



Ron Adler
President

Ron Adler, Chair
Brenda Knapp, Treasurer

Pete Braveman, Vice Chair
At-Large: Bill Hogan, Doug Veit

Diana Strzok, Secretary

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