



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

SENIOR AND DISABILITY SERVICES
Governor's Council on Disabilities
and Special Education

550 W 7th Ave. Suite 1220
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Main: 907.269.8990
Toll Free: 1.888.269.8990
Fax: 907.269.8995

March 11, 2024

Senate Health and Social Services Committee
Senators Wilson, Kaufman, Tobin, Dunbar, and Giessel

Re: Support for SB 240 & HB 343: School District Medical Assistance

Dear Senators:

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the Council) fills a variety of federal and state roles, including serving as the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (ICC), and the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As the state DD Council, ICC, and SEAP, the Council works with Senior and Disabilities Services and the Department of Education and Early Development to ensure people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families receive the services and supports that they need, as well as participate in the planning and design of those services.

The Council is pleased to offer support for SB 240 and HB 343. These bills align with our organization's priorities to increase access to health care services for children and will increase flexibility for schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for eligible children. In addition, these bills:

- ✓ Provide more convenient choices for parents seeking care for their children.
- ✓ Support parent-directed services provided in the school setting.
- ✓ Promote early intervention and prevention.
- ✓ Remove barriers preventing schools from leveraging federal Medicaid match.
- ✓ Increase flexibility for schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for eligible children.

Currently, for Medicaid to cover services provided in schools, the child must have a disability and the services must be included in the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Not all children covered by Medicaid who could benefit from the types of services that can be delivered in school settings need an IEP or have been diagnosed with a disability. This bill would remove the current requirements and presents an opportunity to further leverage federal dollars by enabling schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for services provided on site.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Shelly Vendetti Vuckovich

Shelly Vendetti-Vuchovich
Chairperson, SEAP

Patrick Reinhart

Patrick Reinhart
Executive Director, GCDSE