



ALASKA STATE HOSPITAL &
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 26, 2022

The Honorable Adam Crum, Commissioner
Department of Health & Social Services
3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, AK 99503-5923

RE: ASHNHA Supports Reorganization of the Department of Health & Social Services

Dear Commissioner Crum,

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) represents more than 65 hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, and other health care partners distributed across Alaska's vast expanse of over half a million square miles, from PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center in Southeast Alaska to Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital in Utqiagvik, north of the Arctic Circle. For over 60 years, ASHNHA members have worked together to improve health care in Alaska.

ASHNHA is pleased to support Executive Order 121 to reorganize the Department of Health and Social Services into two units - the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services.

We appreciate the time taken to meet directly with ASHNHA members on the plans for the reorganization. We support the administration's efforts to effectively and efficiently manage state resources to strengthen the focus on improving the health and safety of Alaskans.

Given ASHNHA's priority of harnessing innovation to transform health care through demonstration projects, we are particularly supportive of the new Department of Health's focus on the delivery of health care, providing robust health statistics and analysis, and responsible management of health care costs. ASHNHA members are ready to work with the new Department of Health to ensure our health care system is stable and supported with opportunities for transformation of care as we move forward.

We hope that the reorganization will support ease of access and continuity of care across departments for Alaskan citizens and health care providers. As always, thank you for your leadership and partnership on working to solve Alaska's health care challenges.

Sincerely,

Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO