

2024

Legislative Priorities for Advancing Alaska Healthcare

1

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Pass HB 149, SB 130

WORKFORCE | NURSE LICENSURE

HB 149 / SB 130 allows Alaska to enact reciprocity with 41 other states and jurisdictions through the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). This will modernize Alaska's licensing process with best practices used across the country, reduce the workload on State of Alaska workers, and speed up licensure from months to a matter of days. Over 75 Alaska local governments, chambers of commerce, universities, and healthcare entities support HB 149 / SB 130. Finally, Alaska's nurses want the NLC - in a 2023 survey of all nurses actively licensed in Alaska, 92% of respondents support Alaska joining the NLC.

2

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Pass HB 187;
Amend AS 18.23.400

ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN | PRIOR AUTHORIZATION, PRICE TRANSPARENCY

A growing number of statutes, regulations, and policies imposed on hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare providers are driving up healthcare costs and impeding the ability to provide efficient, high-quality healthcare. HB 187 seeks to eliminate prior authorization requirements for high performing healthcare providers. Likewise, amending AS 18.23.400 will eliminate duplicative state and federal requirements by aligning Alaska's price transparency laws with the more rigorous federal standards.

3

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Follow AHHA's
BH Action Plan

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH | SYSTEMS CHANGE

AHHA has developed a plan of six actionable steps we can take today to address core deficiencies in our behavioral health system. These six actions represent practical and necessary progress for addressing administrative burdens, access to care, and prevention and early intervention. See AHHA's *Behavioral Health Issue Brief* for the full plan of action.

4

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Pass fully-funded
Medicaid budget

ACCESS | MEDICAID

With nearly one in three Alaskans covered by Medicaid, supporting the Medicaid program is vital to Alaska's healthcare infrastructure. Inadequate Medicaid reimbursement makes access to behavioral health and other core services impossible. Without strong community-based services, hospitals fill up with patients who don't need to be there. We need to invest in our Medicaid program while looking to innovate and improve services for Alaskans.

5

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Oppose HB 35, SB 8

TRANSPARENCY | CERTIFICATE OF NEED (CON)

CON laws protect against the development of expensive, unnecessary services and facilities while ensuring underserved populations have sufficient access to care. SB 8 / HB 35 seek to repeal Alaska's CON laws, and thus would limit transparency and oversight of public dollars and undermine access to care. Alaska's CON processes and protections need to be improved and updated, not eliminated.