

February 28, 2024

Representative Prax, Chair  
House Health & Social Services Committee  
State Capitol Room 106  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[House.Health.And.Social.Services@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Health.And.Social.Services@akleg.gov)

**RE: AHHA Supports HB 343 School District Medical Assistance**

Dear Chair Prax and House HSS Committee Members,

For 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare partners across the continuum of care. AHHA members play an invaluable role, both as community providers and essential employers, in cities, towns, and villages across Alaska.

AHHA is pleased to offer our support for HB 343 and its removal of the requirement that Medicaid can only reimburse for school-based services if the student has a disability and the services are included in the student's Individualized Education Plan.

We view this change as a means of increasing flexibility for schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for eligible students and extending this coverage to all Medicaid eligible students. This bill matters to Alaskans because it will increase healthcare access and improve child health outcomes. Additionally, schools will be able to fund health-related services like school nurses. AHHA urges the passage of HB 343 to better align with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and support access to services within schools for Medicaid eligible children.

Thank you for your consideration and support in working to solve Alaska's healthcare challenges.

Sincerely,



Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA  
President & CEO