

Health Policy Issues of Interest to ALPHA
Updated March 14, 2010



Attached is information about ALPHA’s position and activities on health policy issues at the local, state, and federal level.

Notification about the opportunity for public input for many of these issues will be distributed via the Health Policy List

Serv sponsored by AARP Alaska, All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, and the Alaska Primary Care Association. All ALPHA members are on this listserv.

However, To further promote and support advocacy efforts, ALPHA developed a list serve specifically for members who are willing to talk to their legislators, testify at hearings, write position letters for distribution, and actively increase participation in the legislative process. If you want to join this list, click the link Google groups and add yourself. <http://groups.google.com/group/alpha-advocacy?hl=en>

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<i>Local Community Issues</i>		ALPHA's Position & Activities
<p>Was heard at Anchorage assembly March 2, 2010</p> <p>Will be heard again March 23, 2010. Check here for updates: www.bicycleanchorage.org</p>	<p><i>Municipality of Anchorage Bicycle Plan</i></p> <p>The assembly will be voting to adopted the Bike Plan in late January or February. This plan is part of a series of non-motorized transportation plans. The pedestrian plan has been adopted and a trails plan is in the process of development.</p> <p>Here's the Anchorage Bike Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal is to double ridership, reduce injuries by 30%, and improve connectivity. • Focus is on educating bicyclists and drivers about rights and responsibilities of sharing the road. • Establish Anchorage as a leader in bicycle ridership and infrastructure among northern cities and make bicycling an integral part of transportation in Anchorage. • Encourage and accommodate safe winter cycling. • Develop a policy that requires accommodation of bicyclists in all new road construction. <p>The money will come from a variety of sources including; federal stimulus money, grants, and road funds. Remember, the cost of a four-lane road is an average of \$20-80 million PER MILE and the entire bicycle plan will provide 508 miles of bicycle connectivity priced at \$105 million spread out over twenty years.</p> <p>See ALPHA Resolution 2009-02 Improving Health through Transportation and Land Use Policies http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/2009_02_Improving_Health_through_Transportation_Land_Use_Policies.pdf</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Ltrs were submitted 1-25-2010 to all assembly members and testimony will be provided at public meeting schedule March 2, 2010</p> <p>1-21-2010 Requested South Addition Community Council adopted a resolution in support of the plan.</p>
	<p><i>Sale of Alcohol, Bethel</i></p>	<p>Monitoring</p>
	<p><i>Seward City Council to vote on community water fluoridation</i></p> <p>During the October 2009 municipal elections. Advisory Proposition 1, which proposed adding fluoride to Seward's water supply, passed by a vote of 229-206. Now the city council needs to adopted fluoridation.</p> <p>ALPHA Comment: Three resolutions since 1984 supporting community water fluoridation.</p>	<p>Support</p>

		<p>1984-05 Promotion of Universal Access to Fluoridation in Alaska. Calls for State and federal agencies to assure that all Alaskan communities with public water systems implement central water fluoridation; and for communities without public water systems, to assure community access to fluoridation programs.</p> <p>1993-3 Fluoridation of Water. Encourages the use of fluoride in community water supplies as a safe and effective means of protecting the oral health of the public.</p> <p>2004-01 Community Water Fluoridation to Improve Oral Health. Affirms the recognition of the public health benefits of community water fluoridation for preventing dental decay and encourages Alaska communities to fluoridate water supplies.</p>	
<i>State of Alaska – Non Legislative</i>			
Statewide Primary Election August 24, 2010		<p><i>Parental Notification and Consent Ballot Initiative</i></p> <p>ALPHA Comment: This initiative would put the government right in the middle of family decisions, and put our most vulnerable teens at risk. The truth is, no law can mandate family communication, and this law isn't the solution. The real solution to teen pregnancy and abortion is prevention and talking to kids about responsible sexual behavior long before they are faced with an unintended pregnancy. ALPHA is a member of the growing coalition-Alaskans Against Government Mandates- to protect our most vulnerable teens.</p> <p>ALPHA Resolution 7-2007 Protecting and Enhancing Women’s Ability to Obtain Safe, Legal Abortion Services http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/resolution/7-2007LateBreakerSafeLegalAbortion.pdf</p>	<p>Vote No Opposed</p> <p>Organizational member of coalition Alaskan’s Against Government Mandates</p>
<i>Alaska Native Issues</i>			
		<p><i>Funding for Indian Health Services in Health Reform Bill</i></p> <p>In regards to federal legislation, specifically the Health Care Reform Bill (HR 3962/HR 3590) and its impact on the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (HR 2708), here are a few things ALPHA support.</p> <p>Tribal leaders have identified fundamental, key components that must be in place in any health reform legislation. Without these, the Indian health system would be severely damaged, and the rights of Indian people (American Indian/Alaska Native) and our sovereign governments would be jeopardized. The key provisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemption of American Indians and Alaska Natives from Individual 	Monitoring

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penalties and Cost Sharing; Indian Health Provider Protections; • Exclusion of Health Benefits as Income; and Indian Health Care • Improvement Act Reauthorization. <p>While all of these provisions have been secured - to some degree – in both House and Senate passed bills, there are significant differences in the language.</p> <p>Division D of H.R. 3962 revises and restates the entire IHCIA and makes that law permanent. The Senate bill, on the other hand, incorporates S. 1790, a bill favorably reported by the Committee on Indian Affairs, which makes significant amendments to the IHCIA (including a permanent authorization) but does not revise the entire law. H.R. 3590 also amends S. 1790, as reported. Because the House bill is the more comprehensive measure, to simplify the reconciliation process, Indian Country recommends that the provisions in H.R. 3962, Division D, be selected, except as indicated which identifies the provisions of S. 1790 that are preferred. We suggest using the House bill's IHCIA section numbers, but the House text should be replaced with the Senate text where the latter language is preferred. New Senate provisions which do not have a House counterpart should be numbered appropriately for the IHCIA title in which they are recommended for insertion.</p>	
<i>Federal/ National</i>			
		<p><i>Senate “Resolution of Disapproval” to overturn or temporarily block the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) endangerment finding for six greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.</i></p> <p>On December 7, 2009, EPA issued final findings that the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change constitute a danger to public health and welfare. Some of the public health effects of climate change cited in EPA’s announcement include: increased likelihood of more frequent and intense heat waves, more wildfires, degraded air quality, more flooding, increased drought, more intense storms, harm to water resources and harm to agriculture. These findings are in addition to those made in the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (2004) which address Alaska specific issues such as changes in bacterial and viral proliferation, mosquito-borne disease outbreaks such as West Nile virus, and changes in access to safe quality drinking water and traditional subsistence foods.</p> <p>Given the serious public health implications of increasing greenhouse gas concentrations, we believe overturning EPA’s endangerment finding is policy detrimental to public health.</p>	<p>Opposed</p> <p>Signed on the letter of opposition sponsored by the Alaska chapter of the National Wildlife Federation</p>
		<p><i>Health Reform</i></p> <p>ALPHA supports health reform based on the American Public Health Association’s position and bill</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Senators</p>

		<p>analysis. ALPHA is aware of a specific Alaska issues that require amendments see section titled <i>Items of Interest: <u>Alaska Native Issues</u></i> in this document</p> <p>APHA Letter regarding final Congressional negotiations on Health Reform legislation http://www.apha.org/NR/ronlyres/248047ED-886F-46A5-BB9A-39B34F0AF73B/0/APHAHRconferenceletterfinal.pdf</p> <p>APHA Comparison of House and Senate Health Reform legislation http://www.apha.org/NR/ronlyres/015FA523-76FE-4BCE-BD71-DAE2D6BFA907/0/ReformBillsComparision1710.pdf</p>	<p>Begich and Murkowski's office and staff have been contacted numerous times. Most recently March 13, 2010</p>
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Bill #	Sponsor(s)	<i>House Bills</i> Title/ Summary (Short Title in Italics)	ALPHA's Position & Activities
HB9	Chenault	<p><i>HB9 Would establish capital punishment ("death penalty") in Alaska</i></p> <p>An Act relating to murder; authorizing capital punishment, classifying murder in the first degree as a capital felony, and allowing the imposition of the death penalty for certain murders; establishing sentencing procedures for capital felonies; and amending Rules 32, 32.1, and 32.3, Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure, and Rules 204, 209, 210, and 212, Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure."</p> <p>ALPHA Resolution Opposition to the Death Penalty http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/2009_04_Opposition_to_the_Death_Penalty.pdf</p>	Opposed
HB17	Crafford	<p><i>HB 17 PROHIBIT TOBACCO USE UNTIL AGE 21</i></p> <p>"An Act raising the age for purchase, sale, exchange, or possession of tobacco to age 21."</p> <p>ALPHA Comment ALPHA supports efforts to reduce youth tobacco use. However, the evidence does not support increasing purchase age of tobacco as a strategy to reduce youth tobacco initiation and use.</p>	Neutral
HB25	HAWKER	<p><i>HB25 Health Reform Policy Commission</i></p> <p>An Act establishing the Alaska Health Reform Policy Commission in the Department of Health and Social Services, and establishing the position of the executive director of that commission in the partially exempt service; and providing for an effective date</p>	Monitoring
HB28	CRAWFORD	<p><i>HB28 Clinical Laboratory Science Professionals</i></p>	Strongly

		<p>An Act relating to the licensing of clinical laboratory science professionals; and providing for an effective date.</p> <p>ALPHA Comment: Establishes volunteer advisory Board of clinical laboratory science professionals who will advise the department on credentialing agencies or organizations performing clinical laboratory tests. The bill also defines qualifications required for performing specific procedures.</p>	Support
HB34		<p><i>HB34 PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION</i></p> <p>"An Act relating to abortion, fetal pain, anesthesia, and informed consent; and providing for an effective date."</p> <p>Companion bill SB5</p> <p>ALPHA Comment: This bill is similar to the current federal law, which will prohibit abortion procedures that are already illegal under Federal Law. In this bill, no gestational age is specified and there is no exception for the health of the mother.</p>	Oppose
HB35		<p><i>HB35 NOTICE & CONSENT FOR MINOR'S ABORTION</i></p> <p>"An Act relating to notice and consent for a minor's abortion; relating to penalties for performing an abortion; relating to a judicial bypass procedure for an abortion; relating to coercion of a minor to have an abortion; relating to reporting of abortions performed on minors; amending Rule 220, Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure, and Rule 20, Alaska Probate Rules, relating to judicial bypass for an abortion; and providing for an effective date."</p> <p>ALPHA Comment: Requires parental consent or a judge's order for a woman who is pregnant, unmarried, under 17 years of age and unemancipated to have an abortion. This can result in delays in teens talking to anyone about a pregnancy and a delay in seeking medical services. Teens in troubled families are at greatest risk.</p> <p>ALPHA Resolution 7-2007</p> <p>Protecting and Enhancing Women's Ability to Obtain Safe, Legal Abortion Services</p> <p>http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/resolution/7-2007LateBreakerSafeLegalAbortion.pdf</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p> <p>3/2010 Ltr of opposition to Sen. Davis</p>
HB50	WILSON	<p><i>HB50 Limit Overtime For Registered Nurses</i></p> <p>An Act relating to limitations on mandatory overtime for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in health care facilities; and providing for an effective date.</p>	Neutral
HB51	GARDNER	<p><i>HB51 Limit Overtime For Registered Nurses</i></p> <p>An Act relating to limitations on mandatory overtime for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in health care facilities; and providing for an effective date.</p>	Neutral
HB56	KERTTULA Co-Sponsor: Tuck	<p><i>HB56 Student Loan Forgiveness</i></p> <p>An Act relating to forgiveness of portions of education loans for certain borrowers who are residents</p>	Monitoring

		of the state. ALPHA Resolution: 2008-10 Loan Repayment Incentive Program http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/resolution/2008-10HCLoanRepaymentIncentiveProgram.pdf	
HB58	THOMAS Co-Sponsors: Wilson, Millett, Harris, Ramras	<i>HB58 Educ Loan Repayment Program</i> An Act relating to a student loan repayment program for specified occupations or fields in which a shortage of qualified employees exists. ALPHA Resolution: 2008-10 Loan Repayment Incentive Program http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/resolution/2008-10HCLoanRepaymentIncentiveProgram.pdf	Monitoring
HB61	CISSNA Co-Sponsor: Gruenberg	<i>HB61 Medical Assistance Coverage</i> An Act relating to eligibility requirements for medical assistance for certain children, pregnant women, and disabled persons. ALPHA Resolution: 2008-01 DKC Income Eligibility http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/resolution/2008-01DKCIncomeEligibility.pdf	Monitoring
HB62	HAWKER	<i>HB62 Medical Assistance Eligibility/Premiums</i> An Act relating to eligibility requirements and premium requirements for medical assistance coverage for children; and providing for an effective date. ALPHA Resolution: 2008-01 DKC Income Eligibility http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/resolution/2008-01DKCIncomeEligibility.pdf	Monitoring
HB70	Gatto, Ramras	<i>HB70 Alaska Grown Agricultural Products</i> An Act establishing the farm-to-school program in the Department of Natural Resources, the Alaska grown fresh fruit and vegetable grant program in the Department of Education and Early Development, the farmers' market technology improvement pilot program in the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the farmers to food banks pilot program in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. ALPHA Comments: This bill establishes a farm-to-school program to promote the use of fresh, locally grown produce in schools; improves farmers' market technology so that consumers may use Food Stamps at farmers' markets; and establishes a pilot to provide fresh local produce to food pantries and food banks that promotes healthy eating behavior, in line with USDA guidelines to consume 4-5 cups of fruit and vegetables daily; helps students create good lifelong eating habits; strengthens Alaska's farms,	Support

		encourages food stamp recipients to utilize fresh produce, provides fresh produce to hungry Alaskans through food pantries and food banks	
HB71	HOLMES Co-Sponsors: Dahlstrom, Millett, Kawasaki	<i>HB71 Advance Health Care Directives Registry</i> An Act relating to a registry for advance health care directives. ALPHA comments: Alaska Statute 13.52.010 allows for any individual to complete an advance care directive but makes no provision for filling or storage of the directives. This proposal allows for a voluntary registry of completed advance care directives. The registry would allow 24 hour online access to medical facilities and the individual and his/her guardian or agent. The registry will not supplant/invalidate any advance directives not filed with the registry.	Support
HB75	CISSNA Co-Sponsors: GRUENBERG	<i>HB75 Health Commission/Planning</i> An Act establishing the Alaska Health Commission; relating to health planning; requiring a certificate of need study; and providing for an effective date.	Monitoring
HB91	REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	<i>HB91 ALCOHOL: LOCAL OPTION/LICENSING/MINORS</i> "An Act relating to limitations on possessing, sending, shipping, transporting, or bringing alcoholic beverages to a local option area and to penalties for violations of those limitations; relating to probation for minor consuming or in possession or control of alcoholic beverages; relating to civil fines for liquor licensees whose agents or employees furnish alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years of age; and providing for an effective date." ALPHA Comment Please See ALPHA comments SB85	Support
HB130	WILSON, Gardner	<i>HB130 Student Questionnaires and Surveys</i> An Act relating to questionnaires and surveys administered in the public schools. ALPHA Comment Changes active parental consent to passive parental consent for student surveys that are <u>anonymous</u> . (which would mean passive consent for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey). http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/resolution/2008-07YRBSSupport.pdf	Support
HB132	Seaton, Gruenberg, P. Wilson, Austerman	<i>HB132 Support Bicycle Paths:</i> An Act authorizing municipalities and nonprofit organizations to sponsor a program to encourage the safe use of bicycles as an alternative or supplement to motor vehicles; amending the duties of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to include administration of	Support

		<p>state funds appropriated for that purpose; and amending provisions of the program by which state and federal aid allocated for highways may be used to support bicycle paths.</p> <p>ALPHA comments: Creation of additional safe transportation options will bring Alaska’s transportation infrastructure into the 21st century, provide individuals a safe physically active transportation methods, and help reduce pollution and congestion.</p>	
HB176	Cissna	<p><i>HB 176 NURSING MOTHERS IN WORKPLACE</i> "An Act relating to break times for employees who nurse a child."</p> <p>ALPHA Comments: There are numerous positive health effects for the child and mother of ensuring accommodations for breastfeeding at work. Passage of this bill will also offer rewards for the employer/worksites in cost savings for health care, reduced absenteeism, increased employee morale, and employee retention.</p>	Support
HB188	Herron	<p><i>HB188 Tax on Moist Snuff</i> An Act relating to the taxation of moist snuff tobacco, and amending the definition of 'tobacco product' in provisions levying an excise tax on those products.</p> <p>ALPHA Comments: The tobacco industry supports this bill.</p>	Oppose
HB204	DAHLSTROM, Kerttula	<p><i>HB204 Postsecondary Medical Education Program</i> "An Act increasing the number of students pursuing a medical education who are provided postsecondary educational services and programs; and providing for an effective date."</p> <p>ALPHA Comments: Companion bill to SB 18 This bill simply incrementally increases the number of postsecondary educational services and programs to Alaska residents.</p>	Support
HB259	Keller	<p><i>HB259 Adult Public Assistance Eligibility</i> An Act relating to citizenship requirements and an alcohol impairment and drug testing program for applicants for and recipients of adult public assistance." http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=HB259</p>	Opposed
HB260	Keller	<p><i>HB 260 Medicaid Preventive Care/Disease Mgt</i> An Act relating to preventive care and disease management services for medical assistance recipients; and providing for an effective date." http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=HB260</p>	Support

		<p>ALPHA Comment This legislation will provide services under a waiver and the Department (DHSS) shall establish enrollment procedures. The services provided under this legislation will enable medical assistance recipients to remain in the least restrictive and most home-like environment while preventing the need for acute or emergency care. Services must include the following: medication management; coordination with a primary care provider; use of evidence-based practice guidelines; patient education; provider collaboration; routine health and outcome assessments; and other preventive and disease management services. On, or before, July 1, 2011 DHSS shall apply for a waiver from the USDHHS to provide these services.</p>	
HB265	Gardner, Petersen, Gara	<p><i>HB265 Medicaid Coverage for Dentures</i> An Act providing for a two-year funding cycle for medical assistance coverage for dentures." http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=HB265 Companion bill SB 199</p> <p>ALPHA Comment ALPHA supports this bill that will allow Alaska’s adult Medicaid recipients to receive a set of dentures within one fiscal year. This Act will meet the needs of patients and dental providers by providing two-years worth of dental benefits for dentures in a single year. The bill helps establish a system enabling patients to receive patient-oriented care.</p>	Support Ltr of support sent to sponsor
HB270	Munoz	<p><i>HB270 Medicaid for Medical and Intermediate Care</i> An Act amending the eligibility threshold for medical assistance for persons in a medical or intermediate care facility." http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=HB270</p> <p>ALPHA Comment This legislation will be amended to expand the optional groups of persons for whom the state can claim federal financial participation who are on medical assistance. These groups of persons include: persons eligible but not receiving assistance under any plan of the state, or a federal program designated as the successor of the AFDC program; persons in a general hospital, skilled nursing facility, or intermediate care facility; persons under age 21 who are under supervision of the department and are in foster care; aged, blind, or disabled persons who do not receive SSI and do not receive a mandatory state supplement; persons under age 21 who are in an institution designated as an</p>	Support

		intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded and who are financially eligible; persons in a medical or intermediate care facility whose income does not exceed 300 percent of the SSI benefit; and persons under age 21 who are receiving active treatment in a psychiatric hospital and are financially eligible.	
HB277	P. Wilson, Lynn	<i>HB277 CERTIFY EMERGENCY USE OF EPINEPHRINE</i> An Act establishing a program in the Department of Health and Social Services to certify certain individuals to be issued a prescription to administer epinephrine and to possess and administer epinephrine in certain situations	Researching
HB282	Munoz	<i>HB282 Naturopaths</i> An Act relating to naturopaths and to the practice of naturopathy; establishing an Alaska Naturopathic Medical Board; authorizing medical assistance program coverage of naturopathic services; amending the definition of 'practice of medicine'; and providing for an effective date	Researching
HB283	Crawford	<i>HB283 Purchase/ Consumption of Alcohol</i> An Act relating to the purchasing of and restrictions concerning alcoholic beverages	Researching
HB284	Dahlstrom, Gara, Herron	<i>HB284 Pioneers Home Rx Drug Benefit</i> An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to accept federal prescription drug benefits or to provide comparable benefits for residents of the Alaska Pioneers' Home. ALPHA Comment This legislation extends and strengthens services for pioneers and veterans who reside in a home operated in Alaska. ALPHA supports this Act as it requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to accept federal prescription drug benefits or to provide comparable benefits for residents of Alaska's Pioneers' Homes. DHHS may adopt regulations to provide comparable prescription drug benefits to pioneers and veterans who reside in AK and who are eligible for federal prescription drug benefits.	Support
HB286	Gara, Gruenberg	<i>HB286 Medicaid for Medical and Intermediate Care</i> An Act amending the eligibility threshold for medical assistance for persons in a medical or intermediate care facility.	Researching
HB385	Holmes	<i>HB385 FLAME RETARDANTS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS</i> "An Act relating to flame retardants and to the manufacture, sale, and distribution of products containing flame retardants; relating to bioaccumulative toxic chemicals; and providing for an effective date."	Researching

		http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=HB%20385	
		Companion Bill: SB295 http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=SB%20295	
HJR35	Kelly, Keller, P. Wilson, Gatto, Ramras, T. Wilson, Stoltze, Lynn	<i>HJR35 Const Am: Health Care</i> Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska prohibiting passage of laws that interfere with direct payments for health care services and the right to purchase health care insurance from a privately owned company, and that compel a person to participate in a health care system. http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=HJR35	Researching
Bill #	Sponsor	<i>Senate Bills</i>	ALPHA's Position
SB5		<i>SB5 PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION</i> "An Act relating to abortion, fetal pain, anesthesia, and informed consent; and providing for an effective date." <i>Companion bill HB35</i> ALPHA Comment: This bill is similar to the current federal law, which will prohibit abortion procedures that are already illegal under Federal Law. In this bill, no gestational age is specified and there is no exception for the health of the mother.	Oppose
SB6		<i>SB6 NOTICE & CONSENT FOR MINOR'S ABORTION</i> An Act relating to notice and consent for a minor's abortion; relating to penalties for performing an abortion; relating to a judicial bypass procedure for an abortion; relating to coercion of a minor to have an abortion; relating to reporting of abortions performed on minors; and amending Rule 220, Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure, and Rule 20, Alaska Probate Rules, relating to judicial bypass for an abortion." ALPHA Comment: Requires parental consent or a judge's order for a woman who is pregnant, unmarried, under 17 years of age and unemancipated to have an abortion. This can result in delays in teens talking to anyone about a pregnancy and a delay in seeking medical services. Teens in troubled families are at greatest risk. ALPHA Resolution 7-2007 Protecting and Enhancing Women's Ability to Obtain Safe, Legal Abortion Services http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/resolution/7-2007LateBreakerSafeLegalAbortion.pdf	Oppose
SB8	HOFFMAN	<i>SB8 Licensing Of Psychologists</i> An Act relating to the practice and licensing of psychologists.	Monitoring
SB10	DAVIS	<i>SB10 Medicaid/Ins For Cancer Clinical Trials</i>	Support

		<p>An Act requiring health care insurers to provide insurance coverage for medical care received by a patient during certain approved clinical trials designed to test and improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or palliation of cancer; directing the Department of Health and Social Services to provide Medicaid services to persons who participate in those clinical trials; relating to experimental procedures under a state plan offered by the Comprehensive Health Insurance Association; and providing for an effective date.</p> <p>ALPHA Comments: In cancer treatment, clinical trials often provide the most current, best standard of treatment for patients. Clinical trials are also the way standards of care are moved forward to provide the most up-to-date, best practice. This bill will remove one of the barriers to patient participation in clinical trials. Most patients need coverage for continuing, routine, standard of care from their insurance, in order to afford to participate in a cancer clinical trial. Many insurance companies will deny those benefits if a patient chooses to participate in a clinical trial, even if the care is routine and would be normally covered.</p>	
SB11	DAVIS	<p><i>SB11 Dependent Health Insurance; Age Limit</i> An Act relating to health care insurance coverage of a dependent child who is less than 26 years of age and making a conforming age amendment in the statute describing health insurance policies that may be delivered or issued in this state.</p>	Support
SB12	DAVIS	<p><i>SB12 Limit Overtime For Registered Nurses</i> An Act relating to limitations on mandatory overtime for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in health care facilities; and providing for an effective date.</p>	Neutral
SB13	DAVIS Co-Sponsor: Ellis	<p><i>SB13 Medical Assistance Eligibility</i> An Act relating to eligibility requirements for medical assistance for certain children and pregnant women; and providing for an effective date.</p>	Monitoring
SB18	WIELECHOWSKI Co-Sponsors: Thomas, Ellis	<p><i>SB18 Postsecondary Medical & Other Educ. Prog.</i> An Act increasing the number of students pursuing a medical education who are provided postsecondary educational services and programs; and providing for an effective date.</p> <p>ALPHA Comment: This bill simply incrementally increases the number of postsecondary educational services and programs to Alaska residents.</p>	Support
SB21	DAVIS Co-Sponsor: Ellis	<p><i>SB12 Mental Health Care Insurance</i> An Act requiring health care insurers to provide coverage for treatment of mental health, alcoholism, and substance abuse conditions, and requiring parity between health care insurance coverage for</p>	Monitoring

		<p>mental health, alcoholism, and substance abuse benefits and other medical care benefits; eliminating different treatment for mental health conditions from the minimum benefits of the state health insurance plan; removing an exclusion for mental health services or alcohol or drug abuse from the definition of basic health care services in the law relating to health maintenance organizations; repealing a provision that allows optional insurance coverage for treatment of alcoholism and drug abuse based on the number of employees and the duration of employment; repealing a definition of costs applicable solely to treatment for alcoholism and drug abuse, including a provision that allows the cost for treatment of alcoholism and drug abuse to be determined by the insurance contract or by a contract between the treatment provider and the health care insurer; repealing a definition of mental health benefits that excludes treatment of substance abuse or chemical dependency; and providing for an effective date.</p>	
SB30	<p>DYSON Co-Sponsor: Therriault</p>	<p><i>SB30 State Government Missions: General & HSS</i> An Act relating to the state budget, to performance of state agencies, including the judicial branch, and to missions and desired results to be applied to certain expenditures by state agencies; and providing for an effective date.</p> <p>ALPHA Comments: The public health arena operates on a science base that promotes outcome and impact based programming. The sponsor’s statement specifically states that the Department has consistently used process-related indicators to measure the success of its programs. It is good public policy to answer the questions, “so what” when looking at the use of state and public resource.</p> <p>On the other hand, and while it is the role of the legislature to identify the overall mission of state departments, this bill appears to reach deeper, mandating the legislature to identify the priorities and measures of how the Department will realize the vision. This is generally done through the budget process, but this bill is more specific about the level of detail the legislature will provide over the operations of the Department. Does the legislature have the expertise to promote solid social and public health policy implementation? It may be an over-reaching of the separation of powers.</p>	Neutral
SB38	<p>ELTON</p>	<p><i>SB38 Pharmacy Benefits Managers; Managed Care</i> An Act relating to insurance; removing references, definitions, and confidentiality of information provisions relating to managed care entities, substituting health care insurers in the former role of managed care entities, and amending the definitions of 'covered person,' 'managed care plan,' and 'utilization review,' as those terms relate to the administration of managed care insurance plans; authorizing persons to act as pharmacy benefits managers subject to oversight by the division of insurance; and amending the definition of 'health care insurer' as it relates to health care insurance.</p>	Neutral

SB42	Ellis	<p><i>SB42 NURSING MOTHERS IN WORKPLACE</i> "An Act relating to break times for employees who nurse a child."</p> <p>ALPHA Comments: There are numerous positive health effects for the child and mother of ensuring accommodations for breastfeeding at work. Passage of this bill will also offer rewards for the employer/worksites in cost savings for health care, reduced absenteeism, increased employee morale, and employee retention.</p>	Support
SB44	Menard	<p><i>SB44 SAFE ABANDONMENT OF INFANTS</i> An Act relating to the safe abandonment of infants."</p> <p>ALPHA Comment: Extends the period of time in which there will be no prosecution for safe surrender of an infant from less than 21 days of age to less than sixty days.</p>	Support
SB61	FRENCH Co-Sponsor: Ellis	<p><i>SB61 Mandatory Universal Health Insurance</i> An Act establishing an Alaska health care program to ensure insurance coverage for essential health services for residents of the state, the Alaska Health Care Board to administer the Alaska health care program and the Alaska health care fund, the Alaska health care clearinghouse to administer the Alaska health care program under the direction of the Alaska Health Care Board, and eligibility standards and premium assistance for health care coverage of persons with low incomes; creating the Alaska health care fund; providing for review of actions and reporting requirements related to the health care program; and providing for an effective date.</p>	Support
SB85	REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	<p><i>SB85 ALCOHOL: LOCAL OPTION/LICENSING/MINORS</i> "An Act relating to limitations on possessing, sending, shipping, transporting, or bringing alcoholic beverages to a local option area and to penalties for violations of those limitations; relating to probation for minor consuming or in possession or control of alcoholic beverages; relating to civil fines for liquor licensees whose agents or employees furnish alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years of age; and providing for an effective date."</p> <p>ALPHA Comments: Overall a good bill that pulls together three separate issues associated with alcohol. However, ALPHA would like language to suspend the liquor license upon first offense of sale to a minor; the suspension would apply to the liquor license not the sales clerk. This addition would better match the penalties associated with sale of tobacco to a minor. Important elements are: 2) The First important element is reducing the amount of alcohol that can be brought into a damp village. The bill would allow law enforcement to assume that larger quantities are for bootlegging.</p>	Support

		<p>This is a step to reduce bootlegging which remains a big problem.</p> <p>3) The second element is that two items more or less fix errors in existing laws, one related to probation for minor consuming and penalties for bootlegging.</p>	
SB87	<p>WIELECHOWSKI, Paskvan, Ellis, Davis, Kookesh, Elton, French</p>	<p><i>SB87 Expansion of Medical Assistance Coverage</i> "An Act expanding medical assistance coverage for eligible children and pregnant women; relating to cost sharing for certain recipients of medical assistance; and providing for an effective date."</p> <p>ALPHA Comments: SB 13 and SB 87, both raise Denali KidCare eligibility to 200% of poverty. Additionally, SB 87 has a provision to allow families with incomes between 200 and 300% of the poverty level to buy in to the program by paying a reasonable premium.</p> <p>This bill would also allow families with incomes up to 300% of the FPL to buy into Denali KidCare using a sliding fee scale. Many children from working families in Alaska are unable to afford private insurance and go without coverage, which results in poorer health and greater costs in the long-run.</p>	Support
SB101	Davis	<p><i>SB101 Student Questionnaires and Surveys</i> An Act relating to questionnaires and surveys administered in the public schools.</p> <p>ALPHA Comment Changes active parental consent to passive parental consent for the CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey (only). This anonymous survey is the 'gold standard' for schools and others who work with youth that is needed for grant applications and other funding; a large number of youth need to take this survey so progress can be noted, so resources can be used for identified needs; most parents don't object - they are just busy and don't get the permission forms returned; school districts must spend additional resources to track down permission forms; Anchorage School District supports this change.</p> <p>What the bill does: The bill maintains and strengthens current parent notification provisions. It ensures that parents are informed that the survey will be given, provides for the opportunity to review survey content, and allows parents to choose not to allow their children to participate.</p> <p>What the YRBS is: The YRBS is an anonymous, school-based survey with a middle school and high school version. It is a nationally recognized and administered survey instrument developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.) It is conducted every two years. It is completely anonymous. No</p>	<p>Strongly Support</p> <p>Emailed support request to all House H&SS Committee members before hearing February 2, 2010</p>

		<p>identifying information is given and the surveys are immediately put into sealed envelopes to be turned into the state. The survey is administered through cooperation between the state Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Health and Social Services, and local school districts. Data from this survey provides accountability for programs to address identified needs and is used for grant applications for needed programs.</p> <p>Why we need the law changed: The current law, requiring signed permission slips for any student to participate, unnecessarily hinders data collection needed to design and evaluate risk prevention programs and services to protect our youth. The state spent about \$90,000 last year on incentives to support getting permission slips returned. This is in addition to extra staff time and costs incurred by local school districts. Over the last decade, the survey has had years of not meeting the necessary sample size to have valid data or has barely made the cut off for valid data, but with a higher margin of error than a larger sample size would have provided.</p> <p>Win-Win: SB101 recognizes the need to keep parents informed and given opportunities for engagement. It balances this with the need to keep administrative burden to a minimum, resulting in a bill that supports both parental involvement and the ability to better serve our youth.</p> <p>ALPHA Resolution 2008-07 Support for YRBS http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/resolution/2008-07YRBSSupport.pdf</p>	
<p>SB139</p>	<p>OLSON, Wielechowski, Meyer, Davis French, Kookesh, Paskvan, Egan</p>	<p><i>SB139 INCENTIVES FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL PROVIDERS</i> An Act establishing a loan repayment program and employment incentive program for certain health care professionals employed in the state; and providing for an effective date.</p> <p>ALPHA Comments: Alaska is one of only six states without a state-sponsored support-for-service program such as a loan repayment and incentive program and is losing ground. Competition for recruitment of providers is very difficult. Currently only 2% of medical students nationally are choosing the primary care field; more than 90 pharmacist vacancies exist in Alaska; many communities have inadequate access to dentists; physician assistants and nurse practitioners are increasingly difficult to recruit; nurses, dental hygienists, psychologists, licensed certified social workers, and physical therapists are all in short supply in Alaska. The Alaska Health Care Professions Loan Repayment & Incentive Program provides an important part of the solution to the workforce shortage Alaska faces. This proposal was developed after careful review of national studies of best practices for workforce recruitment and</p>	<p>Support</p>

		retention and input from stakeholders statewide, including consideration of factors unique to Alaska. Loan repayment AND incentives have been shown to effectively help alleviate shortage problems in other states. This proposal is more cost-efficient and results-producing than other methods.	
SB197	Dyson	<p><i>SB197 Emergency Contraceptives</i> An Act allowing pharmacists the right to refuse to refer, recommend, or dispense emergency contraceptives; providing immunity to a pharmacy for civil liability for a pharmacist's refusal to refer, recommend, or dispense emergency contraceptives; and prohibiting discrimination in employment against a pharmacist who refuses to refer, recommend, or dispense emergency contraceptives." http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=SB197</p> <p>ALPHA Comment The proposed regulation provides greater protection to pharmacy workers and institutions but fails to assure that individuals have access to needed health care services and information.</p> <p>ALPHA strongly supports access to comprehensive health care for women, including family planning services for all Alaskans. One of our major concerns is the use of non-specific terminology in defining the term abortion opening the possibility of providers including readily available contraceptives in their definition of abortion. This has very serious implications for Alaska. While individuals living in a handful of metropolitan areas in Alaska have access to services from a number of pharmacists, many live in more than 230 communities served by a single pharmacist or dispensary. The proposed regulation may make it difficult for patients to access reproductive health services.</p>	Oppose
SB199	Ellis, ELLIS, Davis, Egan, French, Menard, Olson, Paskvan, Thomas, Wielechowski	<p><i>SB199 Medicaid Coverage for Dentures</i> An Act providing for a two-year funding cycle for medical assistance coverage for dentures http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=SB199 Companion bill HB265</p> <p>ALPHA Comment ALPHA supports this bill that will allow Alaska's adult Medicaid recipients to receive a set of dentures within one fiscal year. This Act will meet the needs of patients and dental providers by providing two-years worth of dental benefits for dentures in a single year. The bill helps establish a system enabling patients to receive patient-oriented care.</p>	Support Ltr submitted to all Senators encouragin g co- sponsorship
SB204	Dyson	<p><i>SB204 State Employee Health Savings Accts</i> Relating to state employee health plans that give employees the option to select a federally qualified high deductible health plan and requiring employees who select that plan to establish a health savings</p>	Monitor

		account. http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?bill=SB%20204&session=26	
SB207	Davis	<i>SB207 P-16 Education Council</i> Establishing a preschool to age 16 education council in the Department of Education and Early Development; and providing for an effective date. http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?bill=SB%20207&session=26	Researching
SB211	Ellis	<i>SB 211 Alcoholic Beverage Tax</i> An Act relating to the disposition of proceeds from the alcoholic beverage tax and to the alcohol and other drug abuse treatment and prevention fund." http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=SB211	Researching
SB213	Wielechowski	<i>SB213 Funding for School Meals</i> An Act providing for funding for school lunch and breakfast http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=SB213 ALPHA Comment See ALPHA RESOLUTION 6-2008 State Funding for the School Breakfast Program http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/pdf/resolution/2008-06SchoolBreakfastProgramFunding.pdf Although ALPHA supports the bill, the funding amounts presented in the bill seem inadequate to encourage districts to start new school lunch or breakfast programs. ALPHA would like to see a greater number of school's serving breakfast and lunch and an increase in the number of students served. The funding may be adequate for districts already serving school breakfast and lunch to serve students healthier meals. ALPHA would like a higher amount of funding per meal to truly increase the number of students served.	Support Sent email of support to senate education committee.
SB295	Wielechowski	<i>SB295 FLAME RETARDANTS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS</i> "An Act relating to flame retardants and to the manufacture, sale, and distribution of products containing flame retardants; relating to bioaccumulative toxic chemicals; and providing for an effective date." http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=SB%20295 Companion Bill: HB385 http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=26&bill=HB%20385	Researching