



February 21, 2023

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
Senate Bill 8

Senate Health & Social Services

Senator Wilson, Chair

Senator Kaufman, Vice Chair

Senator Tobin, Vice Chair

Senator Dunbar, Member

Senator Giessel, Member

Honorable Members of the Committee:

Alaska's onerous certificate of need (CON) requirements for health care providers have been detrimental to the lives of Alaskans. They make it difficult and expensive to open new health care facilities and aggravate the challenges of access and affordability in Alaska. Patients are left with higher costs, lower quality care, and fewer options.

These laws require businesses to prove their services are necessary before they can enter the market, which limits accessibility and innovation. This approach hinders the health care system's ability to adapt to emerging health care needs quickly. Furthermore, allowing existing providers to give input on their potential competition is not in the best interest of patients.

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted Alaska and other states to temporarily suspend some of these requirements to ensure that essential health care services were delivered. This measure was necessary to provide much-needed health care services during the crisis and did not cause any problems. Why should that change now that the pandemic is over?



Repealing certificate of need laws will make the health care system more responsive to emerging needs of Alaskans. It is time for Alaska to follow the lead of other states that have already removed these requirements.

Repealing certificate of need requirements will help alleviate the state's health care access and affordability challenges and create a more economical and innovative health care system that better serves Alaskans.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Erick Cordero Giorgana
Vice President of Operations

