



March 21, 2023

**LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY**

Senate Bill 91

Senate Health & Social Services Committee

Senator Wilson, Chair  
Senator Kaufman, Vice Chair  
Senator Tobin, Member  
Senator Dunbar, Member  
Senator Giessel, Member

Chair Wilson, & Members of Health & Social Services Committee,

Alaska Policy Forum (APF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is a nonpartisan state-based think tank and does not receive public funds. APF urges the Health & Social Services Committee to adopt policies that reduce healthcare costs and increase access to all Alaskans.

We learned much about telehealth and remote healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic. That led policymakers to pass [legislation](#) in 2022 that put into law some temporary allowances made during the pandemic. However, more still needs to be done.

Alaskans living in rural areas with few providers and facilities, the elderly, the homebound, and the immunocompromised, should have access to health care providers of their choosing and on a timely basis. Most Alaskans can only access specialists, second opinions, or team-based care through telehealth or going out of state.

Besides the cost and time, it takes to travel out-of-state, patients often find that traveling long distances to see their providers is not helpful to their health.



Expanding telehealth to include multidisciplinary care teams is wise and will give Alaskans access to more professionals and help lower [costs](#).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Erick Cordero Giorgana  
Vice President of Operations

