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May 15, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Harkin, and Ranking Member Cochran:

As you prepare the FY10 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include funding for the following projects in my state:

Project: Denali Commission

Amount Requested: \$20,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Denali Commission; Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: HHS, HRSA

Purpose: The Denali Commission supports planning, design, construction, and equipment of health facilities in Alaska. The Health Facilities program is a collaborative one, with the partnership of numerous organizations, and the assistance of the Alaska Native Regional Health Corporations. In response to Congressional direction in 2003, funding for additional program areas addressing other health and social service related facility needs was initiated. The program has expanded to include annual initiatives such as primary care in hospitals, emergency medical services equipment, and hospital design.

Project: Denali Job Training

Amount Requested: \$3,400,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Denali Commission; Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: DOL, ETA

Purpose: Denali Commission Job Training funding allows un-and under-employed rural Alaskans to train for jobs in their villages. As Alaska builds much-needed clinics, roads, and other infrastructure in remote parts of the state, Denali Commission Job Training builds sustainability into those projects by training local residents to maintain and operate the new facilities. It also trains rural residents to provide much-needed healthcare and construction, and includes a youth initiatives. This funding is critical to the continued economic development of some of the poorest, most remote and economically depressed areas of our Nation.

Project: Pathways to Sobriety Project Continuation

Amount Requested: \$503,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: SAMHSA

Purpose: The Municipality is proposing a continuation of a comprehensive system of care for homeless and chronic alcoholics, including veterans and those with a dual diagnosis, to include detoxification and treatment, comprehensive case management services, and housing assistance.

Project: Avant-Garde Learning Foundation: Skills Alaska

Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Avant-Garde Learning Foundation: Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: FIE

Purpose: These funds would allow for Skills Alaska to add Skatekids Online to existing programs to help implement the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act in Alaska. Skills Alaska administers an education initiative that provides policy makers, administrators, teachers, students and parents in schools and school districts in Alaska with the tools they need, as well as the constant guidance and expertise, to put the essential elements of standards and accountability in place and realize the goals of the NCLB Act. Students who participate in Skills Alaska Programs have higher academic proficiency than their demographically similar non-participating peers.

Project: Yukon Koyukuk Alternative Energy Technical Center

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Yukon Koyukuk School District (YKSD); Fairbanks, Alaska

Agency, Account: FIE

Purpose: Yukon Koyukuk School District recognizes that the cost of fuel and low graduation rate of its students endangers the existence of its nine villages. In order to combat this issue, YKSD will conduct a secondary school pilot which will have two objectives: first, a "response to intervention" pilot school program to prepare students to pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (exit exam); second, an Alternative Energy Vocational Center, which will train students in conversion mechanics and maintenance and operation of hydroelectric, nuclear, biomass, solar, and wind energy facilities.

Project: Alaska Native Media Violence Prevention Program

Amount Requested: \$100,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Koahnic Broadcast Corporation; Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: Museums and Library

Purpose: The proposed project is a media campaign designed to promote Native violence prevention through the broadcast of radio programs. Koahnic Broadcast Corporation will actively work in

partnership with Alaska Native rural radio stations and government and non-profit organizations that advocate for violence prevention and promote victim safety. This will help decrease the escalating rate of violence perpetrated against Native people and increase Native people's knowledge both of their legal rights to protection from violent crimes and the services available to help them achieve safety.

Project: Alaska Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Demonstration Project

Amount Requested: \$250,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska; Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: FIE

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to extend evidence-based, research-proven mentoring solutions to underserved populations who are at high risk for substance abuse, dropping out of school, and suicide. Impacts for youth include improved attitude and performance at school, reduced risk for alcohol and substance abuse, reduced risk for violence, and improved self confidence. Funds requested will assist with expanding the program and sustainability efforts.

Project: Training and Equipment for Central Council Vocational Mobile Training Resource Center

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska; Juneau, Alaska

Agency, Account: DOL-Education and Training

Purpose: Some communities in the region are experiencing unemployment rates as high as 88 percent. Although training resources are available in larger communities like Juneau, vocational training remains inaccessible for rural residents. This project will provide wireless internet capability and utilize distance learning technologies to allow Central Council to train 1,500 rural Alaskans during the next 24 months.

Project: Providence Health & Services Alaska – Family Medicine Residency

Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Providence Health & Services Alaska; Anchorage, AK

Agency, Account: HHS, HRSA

Purpose: The funding requested would be used for faculty, staffing, and other necessary infrastructure. The Alaska Family Medicine Residency was developed in 1997 to address the physician shortage and now trains 12 physicians per year to practice across the state. The rural elements of the Alaska Family Medicine Residency make it one of the most successful programs in the country for placing physicians in rural and underserved practice sites.

Project: Alaska 2-1-1

Amount Requested: \$250,000

Recipients(s)/Location: United Way of Anchorage; Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: SAMHSA

Purpose: These funds will pay for the continued operation of Alaska 211, a phone number that connects individuals with vital health and human services resources in their communities 24 hours a day.

Project: Akeela House Recovery Center Program Enhancement Project

Amount Requested: \$250,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Akeela Inc.; Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: HHS, SAMHSA

Purpose: This project has a three-fold purpose: first, to increase treatment retention at Akeela House; second, to enhance and expedite the successful transition of clients from treatment back into the community at-large, and third, to increase capacity to provide enhanced services to a greater number of clients.

Project: Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC)

Amount Requested: \$250,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC); Nome, Alaska

Agency, Account: DOL, ETA

Purpose: This center provides high school students with the necessary resources and skills to prepare them for skilled employment opportunities and the pursuit of postsecondary education. Historically, students from the Bering Strait region have had limited success in leaving the area for advanced education and training. NACTEC is designed to assist students in developing the skills necessary to successfully pursue opportunities beyond high school. This project allows for expanded alcohol and substance use disorder treatment and prevention services in Alaska.

Project: Nugen's Ranch Replacement Facility

Amount Requested: \$300,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services; Wasilla, Alaska

Agency, Account: DOL, ETA

Purpose: Funding is requested for the construction of a new residential substance abuse treatment facility to replace the existing facility.

Project: Coalition for Prisoner Re-entry

Amount Requested: \$179,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Nine Star Education and Employment Services; Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: DOL, ETA

Purpose: This proposed Prisoner Re-entry Coordination Project will strengthen and expand the Alaska Coalition for Prisoner Re-entry's (CPR) activities in the Anchorage area and serve as a statewide model. The Coalition will provide employment, housing, clothing, and ex-offender family services to keep ex-offenders from returning to jail.

Project: Ketchikan General Hospital (KGH) Surgery and Clinical Services Addition

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: City of Ketchikan, Alaska

Agency, Account: HRSA

Purpose: The City of Ketchikan is seeking financial assistance to renovate Ketchikan General Hospital's surgical and clinical areas and to expand patient support services. Federal support will be critical to maintain and improve the quality of healthcare in southern Southeast Alaska. In addition to delivering critical, specialty and primary care to a rural, remote area, KGH also sponsors educational programs for diagnostic imaging technicians and nursing students.

Project: Petersburg Medical Center Clinic Expansion

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: City of Petersburg, Alaska

Agency, Account: HHS, HRSA

Purpose: The primary care clinic in Petersburg, Alaska, was designed and built in 1995 to accommodate three providers. Since then the patient demand has increased by 38 percent and a fourth provider was added to accommodate the additional load. This project would expand the size of all these areas, as well as create 4 more exam rooms, a physician's office, and an additional room for telemedicine and training.

Project: Alaska Native Cultural Survival Media Project

Amount Requested: \$200,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Koahnic Broadcast Corporation (KBC); Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: Museum and Library

Purpose: The KBC proposes an initiative to extend its current program offerings to Alaskans and other audiences with educational news, arts, and cultural programs about Alaska Natives. Through this project, Alaska's Native people can share stories and cultural traditions and increase the opportunities to learn from one another and Native people throughout the Arctic and sub-Arctic.

Project: Maniilaq Elder Care Addition

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Maniilaq Association; Kotzebue, Alaska

Agency, Account: HHS, HRSA

Purpose: These funds would provide for the construction of an 18-bed long-term nursing care wing co-located with the Maniilaq Health Center. Currently, there are no other options for elders and their families to receive these services within the region.

Project: Dental Health Aide Therapy Program

Amount Requested: \$2,500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC); Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: HHS

Purpose: These funds would allow for the training of Dental Health Aide Therapists in Alaska, the first such program in the United States. Although dental therapy is authorized in over 40 countries worldwide, including New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Canada, the Dental Health Aide Therapy Training Program is the only training program of its kind in the entire United States. ANTHC is committed to providing quality and cost-effective dental services through this program, which is modeled after the very successful Community Health Aide Program.

Project: Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) Staffing

Amount Requested: \$2,500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Kodiak Area Native Association: Kodiak, Alaska

Agency, Account: HHS

Purpose: These funds would pay for staffing needs at the ANMC. In the first two months of FY09, ANMC had to divert 371 patients to other hospitals because it did not have sufficient staffing to meet the health care needs of its patients. Through a 638 compact with the federal government, the ANTHC along with Southcentral Foundation furthers the federal government's trust responsibility for the provision of health care to Alaska Natives / American Indians.

Project: Village Built Clinic Lease Program

Amount Requested: \$3,000,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Alaska Native Health Board; Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: HHS

Purpose: These funds would provide an increase in the Village Built Clinic (VBC) Lease Program to support rent, utilities, maintenance and upkeep of health care facilities in small rural Alaska communities. Funding for this program has increased less than 5 percent in the past ten years. During this time, energy costs in rural Alaska have skyrocketed and payments under the village leases now cover only 55 percent of the daily operating costs and provide no funding or reserve for long-term maintenance costs.

Project: Staffing Package for Bethel Hospital

Amount Requested: \$1,500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Yukon-Kuskokwim Heath Corporation, Bethel, Alaska

Agency, Account: HHS

Purpose: The requested funding would be used to provide staffing at Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital.

Project: Anchorage Project Access

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Recipients(s)/Location: Anchorage Project Access; Anchorage, Alaska

Agency, Account: HHS, HRSA

Purpose: The requested funds would be used to support the ongoing operation of Anchorage Project Access (APA). APA is a local replication of a national model that has proven to improve health outcomes and reduce emergency room charity care cost in many communities. For three years, APA has provided needed health services to those most in financial need. Practitioners representing all medical specialties donate services on a rotating pro bono basis. No doctor or practitioner has or will receive any payment for clinical, administrative, or consultative services from APA. Over 1,012 clients have received medical care in the first three years of operation

I certify that to the best of my knowledge neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests. I look forward to working with you as the Committee develops this bill. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth McDonnell from my staff by phone at (202) 224-9306 (direct) or via email at elizabeth_mcdonnell@murkowski.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator