



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of
Health and Social Services

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Anchorage
3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5923
Main: 907.269.7800
Fax: 907.269.0060

Juneau
P.O. Box 110601
350 Main Street, Suite 404
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0601
Main: 907.465.3030
Fax: 907.465.3068

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Dear AVAP Payers,

I am pleased to announce that Governor Dunleavy plans to support the "reverse sweep" that was restored in SB 2002 and approved by the Alaska House of Representatives on Monday, July 29, and by the Alaska Senate earlier this month. This bill, once signed by the Governor, will restore funding to a number of funds and programs, including the Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program (AVAP).

As you know, AVAP helps keep Alaskans safe from vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and mumps by helping to provide affordable vaccines and boost immunization rates. The Alaska Legislature formed AVAP to preserve access to state-supplied vaccines for all children and covered adults by purchasing vaccines through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) discounted bulk contract and distributing them to health care providers. In 2018, over 366,000 Alaskans were covered by AVAP.

This important decision will provide the following assurances for AVAP: 1) assessment payments to the fund will only be used for their intended purpose of purchasing vaccines and covering AVAP operating costs, 2) AVAP will be able to keep the financial reserves required to maintain the state's qualification as a vaccine purchaser under the CDC's federal contract, 3) AVAP will have the resources necessary to continue purchasing vaccines this year to ensure the program's stability, and 4) AVAP will help contain health care costs by reducing future vaccine assessment rates.

The Department of Health and Social Services appreciates your ongoing support for this program that increases the availability of life-saving vaccines for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,


Adam Crum, MSPH

Commissioner

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services