


Our top priority is **ensuring access to**
quality, sustainable healthcare for all Alaskans

AHHA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2025 | 34th Alaska State Legislature

ADDRESS DELAYS IN CARE

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Patients across Alaska experience delays for care as a result of prior authorization. Originally intended to confirm the appropriateness of care, this practice has led to denials and delays to healthcare, administrative burdens for healthcare professionals, and, most critically, interruptions in the care that patients urgently need.

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- **Reform the prior authorization process** by broadening exemptions, imposing strict time limits on reviews, requiring disclosures by insurers, and integrating technology.

NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (NLC)

Alaska needs to update its professional licensing process to incorporate modern best practices. Currently, 43 states and jurisdictions have license reciprocity through the NLC so that qualified nurses can practice across state lines with a single license. It is widely supported by Alaska nurses—a 2023 survey shows 92% of respondents support Alaska joining the NLC.

- **Enact the NLC** to get nurses to work faster, aid recruitment and retention, and support military families relocating to Alaska.

HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Alaska's healthcare system is stuck. We lack infrastructure and services, with one in seven hospital beds occupied by patients who are medically ready to leave but cannot be discharged because there is no place to go for continued care. In 2023, Alaskans spent 67% longer in the hospital than the national average.

- **Invest in healthcare capital projects and services**, and realign reimbursement streams to increase throughput in our healthcare system.

PROMOTE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

CERTIFICATE OF NEED (CON)

CON laws are a healthcare planning and regulatory mechanism used to balance healthcare access and cost. It is a public, transparent process for vetting projects that could add significantly to a state's Medicaid budget. In states that have repealed CON - such as Georgia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana - per capita health expenditures for hospital and physician services grew at a higher rate in the years following repeal.

- **Don't repeal CON - make refinements to the administrative code.** AHHA is committed to working with the Legislature and the Department of Health on such an approach.

MEDICAID SERVICES

Medicaid is a federal-state partnership that provides health coverage and long-term care services for Alaska's most vulnerable: children, seniors, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and very low income or working poor. The program is vital to Alaska's healthcare infrastructure. Medicaid and Medicare often underpay for healthcare services, which creates a significant cost shift to private insurance and drives up healthcare costs to Alaskans.

- **Fully-fund the Medicaid program** to mitigate cost shifts and incentivize service delivery for our vulnerable populations.