

DAY HABILITATION ALERT

Good afternoon everyone,

We have a Day Habilitation Alert that we are asking you to have people from your area inform the House of Representatives about. The full Senate Finance Committee adopted the subcommittee recommendation by Senator Micciche to increase Day Habilitation from 8 to 12 hours.

At this time we are asking you to please contact your Representatives in the House and ask them to support Senate numbers for the Department of Health and Social Services, Medicaid Services – Senior/Disabilities Services, which adds \$1.4 million back into the budget to increase day habilitation services from 8 to 12 hours on the average. Please encourage House members to support this important Senate change which will save the state money in the long run while providing important services to Alaska.s

Here are some talking points you might find useful.

- Support Senate numbers for the Department of Health and Social Services, Medicaid Services – Senior/Disabilities Services, which adds \$1.4 million back into the budget to increase day habilitation services from 8 to 12 hours on the average.
- Home and Community-Based Services Waiver programs are Medicaid programs that allow services, including day habilitation, to be provided in the home or local community for individuals who would otherwise require costly institutional care.
- Eliminating the Medicaid waiver programs “would ultimately cost the State of Alaska hundreds of millions of dollars in additional spending annually”, according to Legislative Research Service Report 16.44, February 2016.
- With services such as day habilitation, individuals with IDD are able to live productive, meaningful lives in the community at a greatly reduced cost to the state.
- Tell your story about how day habilitation services have made a difference in the individual’s or family’s lives and how they save the state money.
- There are better ways to save money than reducing day habilitation services. For example, Investing in technology is a sound investment due to the cost savings associated with reducing the need for staff support and increasing the independence of those served.
- Day habilitation services save the state money.