



April 25, 2025

RE: Behavioral Health Funding

Dear Members of the Anchorage Delegation,

I am writing to express my strong support for retaining the proposed \$13.75 million increase in behavioral health funding in the state operating budget.

Alaska is facing a behavioral health crisis at catastrophic levels. We lead the nation in suicide rates, including youth suicide, and have experienced a nearly 45% increase in overdose deaths in just one year. These alarming statistics reflect the reality we are witnessing daily in Anchorage—families in crisis, individuals unable to access timely treatment, and critical behavioral health programs shuttering due to unsustainable funding.

The connection between public safety and mental health is undeniable. Without a stable, well-resourced behavioral health system, the Municipality bears the burden through increased homelessness, strain on emergency services, and unmet needs across our community. Provider organizations—our partners in building a safe and healthy Anchorage—cannot continue to operate without adequate financial support.

I urge you to support the proposed \$13.75 million increase in behavioral health funding. Alaskans deserve access to a full continuum of behavioral health care. We must act now to preserve and strengthen the system that protects the well-being of our residents.

Thank you for your leadership and continued service to our community.

Sincerely,

Suzanne LaFrance
Mayor of Anchorage

