

Chair Nosse and members of the committee

My name is Carol Greenough, I am testifying as an individual in favor of HB4098 dash 2 amendment.

In 1977 I was hired to start up a combined mental health/ substance use disorder treatment program in Cordova Alaska. This was before the days of Medicaid and **we were able to serve anyone who walked in the door with a need for service.** We worked closely with the doctors in town who pointed out an interesting fact - there was less than expected cirrhosis of the liver, even in people with chronic substance use. As we puzzled about this, we realized that in this small town, if George was sitting on the sidewalk having had too much to drink, his neighbor, Mary would ask him to come home with her, feed him a meal, and send him on his way. He might continue to drink or use drugs - but he would not have the extent of problems seen in many users because he got **what he needed where and when he needed it.**

I serve on the Washington County Behavioral Health Council and the Washington County steering committee developing the plan for the Comprehensive Addiction Triage and Treatment program know as the CATT. Among other reasons, I support the dash 2 amendment because it provides a mechanism for opioid settlement dollars to help build and staff this essential program, which provides **a full range of treatment services with a no wrong door philosophy.** With this money, we can go forward to create a place where our neighbors can **get treatments for their opioid use disorders where and when they need them.** In deliberations planning the CATT, one of the foremost demands we've worked to meet is that we be sure to serve our underserved, diverse, rural and urban populations.

The clarity of this amendment helps us move forward. Thank you for your compassion and service.

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