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ASHNHA statement on Senate passage of HB 312

*Becky Hultberg, President/CEO
Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association*

“We applaud the State Senate today for passing HB 312, the omnibus crime bill. Among other things, the bill addresses violence against health care workers. We appreciate the bipartisan leadership of bill sponsor Rep. Matt Claman and Rep. Chuck Kopp in introducing and advancing this important legislation.

Alaska hospitals have reported recent increases in workplace violence, including assaults with physical injury against caregivers. Staff report feeling unsafe in the workplace. All too often, they are kicked, punched, spit on or verbally threatened. Violence should not be an acceptable workplace hazard. Unfortunately, for many nurses, physicians, and other caregivers, this has become the new normal.

The passage of HB 312 sends a clear message to our health care providers that they are supported and valued. On behalf of the many health care workers serving Alaskans in hospitals and nursing homes, we thank the Senate for passing this important legislation and Rep. Claman and Rep. Kopp for their leadership.”

HB 312 awaits concurrence by the House of Representatives.

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About ASHNHA

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association represents hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care organizations employing over 10,000 Alaskans. Our membership spans geographically from PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center to Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital in Utqiagvik. For over 60 years, ASHNHA members have worked to improve health care in Alaska.