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Governor Sean Parnell
STATE OF ALASKA

January 14, 2011

The Honorable Gary Stevens
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens,

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to the State's comprehensive mental health program for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY 2012). As required by statute, it includes both operating and capital appropriations and is accompanied by a report outlining the differences between the recommendations of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and my proposed budget.

My budget proposal for FY 2012 continues to focus on fostering jobs and economic development. The framework for the budget is based on our constitutional responsibilities for spending – education, public safety, transportation, and responsible resource development.

I am proposing a balanced budget that maintains budget discipline by limiting the growth of State agency budgets, funding statutorily required programs and services, and making strategic investments to promote responsible, sustainable development. With budget discipline, targeted spending, and managing our savings, Alaska's cash reserves and excellent bond rating will provide us with economic opportunities for years to come.

The proposed mental health budget represents a cooperative effort between State agencies and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. These productive working relationships have made and will continue to make a positive difference for Alaska's mental health beneficiaries.

I look forward to working with the Legislature to finalize the mental health budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell
Governor

Enclosure