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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

January 15, 2016

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

Dear President Meyer:

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 2017 (FY 2017). As required by statute, it includes both operating and capital appropriations. Also as required, the enclosed report outlines the differences between the recommendations of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and my proposed budget.

The FY 2017 mental health budget includes \$26.8 million of the \$29.9 million operating and capital Trust recommendations. Due to fiscal constraints, increases to the mental health budget were not included. Included in the operating budget are reductions of \$10.2 million for one-time salary adjustments and Medicaid cost savings for a total proposed FY 2017 mental health budget of \$232.0 million.

The proposed mental health budget represents a cooperative effort between State agencies and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. These productive working relationships make a positive difference for Alaska's mental health beneficiaries. We look forward to working with the Legislature on securing passage of the FY 2017 mental health budget bill.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosure

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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

January 15, 2016

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Chenault:

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Bill Walker
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Enclosure