March 16, 2020

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Giessel:

On this date, I have signed, with line-item vetoes, the following bill passed during the second session of the Thirty-First Alaska State Legislature, and am transmitting the engrossed and enrolled copies to the Lieutenant Governor’s Office for permanent filing:

SCS CSHB 206(FIN)

“An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; making supplemental appropriations; and providing for an effective date.”

Chapter No. 2, SLA 2020

The following reductions were made to the Mental Health Capital and Operating budget. The Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants, were reduced by $70,200 Unrestricted General Fund (UGF) because the work can be accomplished with existing funding; this item was not a recommendation of the Mental Health Trust. The Department of Law, Civil Division Except Janus, was reduced by $100,100 UGF which does not reflect a desire to reduce the program, but a rejection of the proposed appropriation structure; this item was not a recommendation of the Mental Health Trust. Finally, in the Department of Revenue for the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, $2,000,000 UGF was reduced from the Mental Health Beneficiary and Special Needs Housing project to bring the funding level in line with historical funding for this program.

In addition to covering the FY2021 Mental Health budget, this bill also contains critical supplemental authorization for FY2020 necessary to respond to COVID-19. After my vetoes, the
total enacted amount of this bill, inclusive of the FY2020 supplemental COVID-19 funding, is $240.7 million comprised of $169.5 million of Unrestricted General Funds, $45 million of Designated General Funds, $17.2 million of other funds, and $9 million of federal funds. We must work together to prioritize State funded programs, and programs funded at the local level.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure
March 16, 2020

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

Dear Speaker Edgmon:

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure