

Oversite hearings held

For the first time in people's recollection, the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs held oversight hearings on Indian health care in Alaska. The June 3rd proceedings were chaired by Senator Murkowski. Also attending were Dr. Everett Rhoades, Director of the Indian Health Service, and Patricia Zell, staff attorney for the Senate Select Committee.

The ANHB and AFN were responsible for coordinating presentations with the Select Committee staff. Information and concerns were presented on a wide variety of issues including re-authorization of Public Law 94-437 (Indian Health Care Improvement Act) implementation of Public Law 93-638 (Self-Determination Act), contracting with the IHS, indirect costs, funding levels, support for the CHA and CHR programs, contract health care, health status of Alaska Natives, village safe water and Hepatitis B.

Testimony was presented by members of four panels; an ANHB/AFN panel, Regional Health Director panel, Federal/

State panel; and a "Real People" panel made up of providers/representatives from the villages. Witnesses included:

ANHB/AFN Panel

Janie Leask, President, AFN
Caleb Pungowiyi, Kawerak, Inc.
Nina K. Dahl, Maniilaq Association
Spud Williams, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.
Kenneth B. Charlie, ANHB Chairman
Agnes N. Nichols, ANHB Vice Chairman

Regional Health Director Panel

Elise Sereni Patkotak, North Slope Borough
Health & Social Services Agency
Eddie Del Rosario, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
David P. Mather, Tanana Chiefs Conference
Robert Clark, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
Clara (Billie) Peters, Copper River Health Department

"Real People" Panel

Tina Gray, Community Health Aide, Akutan
Elenore McMullen, Community Health Aide, Port Graham
Doreen Knodel, Community Health Representatives,
North Slope Borough
Esther Curtis, Community Health Aide Instructor,
Maniilaq Association
Frank Charles, Asst. Health Educator, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Frank Peterson, Village of Larsen Bay