

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Nick Begich
United States House of Representatives
153 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Begich,

I am submitting a letter of support for the FY2027 Community Project Funding (CPF) request to bolster the replacement Petersburg Medical Center project.

For over a century, Petersburg Medical Center has been the lifeline of our community, tirelessly providing essential medical services. However, the current hospital, erected in 1955 and designated a Critical Access Hospital in 2001, is now woefully inadequate to meet the demands of modern healthcare. Petersburg Medical Center stands as more than just a healthcare provider; it is the beating heart of Petersburg, catering to residents, season workers, and cruise ship passengers alike.

In an era where healthcare dominates Alaska's economic landscape, Petersburg Medical Center shines as a beacon of prosperity for Petersburg. With its workforce injecting millions annually into the local economy, the significance of Petersburg Medical Center cannot be overstated. Access to top-tier medical care isn't merely a luxury – it's a necessity for retaining residents and attracting new businesses to our area.

A comprehensive assessment conducted in 2015 revealed the dire state of the current facility, affirming the urgent need for a modernized Petersburg Medical Center. Substantial progress has been made since then, culminating in the ambitious plans for a phased approach to a replacement medical center. With meticulous planning including the completion of a Master Plan, site preparation, and the selection of a reputable contractor, we stand on the precipice of a transformative endeavor.

The envisioned Petersburg Medical Center expansion encompasses three buildings – a state-of-the-art Wellness, Education & Resource Center (WERC), a much needed 20 bed Long Term Care Center, and the main hospital with 12 acute care beds. This modern facility will house essential services ranging from emergency care and outpatient services to telemedicine-enabled primary care and integrated behavioral health services. It's not merely a healthcare facility; it's a holistic approach to community wellness.

Construction of the WERC was funded by a \$20M grant from the Department of the Treasury and was completed in 2025 under budget and ahead of schedule. We are aware that the remainder of the project is the Borough's #1 priority for additional funds needed to complete the new facility. Petersburg Medical Center FY2027 CPF request will help ensure that the overall project continues to move forward in a timely manner.

Thank you for your support of this much needed project which builds towards a healthier, more resilient Petersburg.

Sincerely,



Heidi Hedberg
Commissioner