



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2020

ARA and ANVCA Comment on Amicus Brief Filed by Alaska Delegation

The ANCSA Regional Association (ARA) and the Alaska Native Village Corporation Association (ANVCA) issued the below statement following the Alaska delegation's filing of an amicus brief on our behalf to the Supreme Court of the United States:

The ANCSA Regional Association and the Alaska Native Village Corporation Association would like to extend their deepest thanks to Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Representative Young for their unwavering support of Alaska Native people. Our delegation has supported us in countless ways over the years, but never has their support been more critical to our survival than during the proceedings of this litigation.

As the delegation noted in its filing, the realities of the pandemic in Alaska are harsh. Alaska Native and American Indian people currently account for 32.3 percent of pandemic deaths in Alaska. Without CARES Act resources for Alaska Native shareholders, many of our people will be left without any relief funding in their time of urgent need.

Each member of the Alaska delegation has a long history drafting policies related to and serving on committees that oversee Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act issues. They know the nuances of tribal language and eligibility and have made it clear, time and time again, that they intended to include ANCs in the distribution of CARES Act funds.

The Alaska delegation and the State of Alaska have both filed amicus briefs on our behalf because they see first-hand the incredible burdens placed on Alaska Native people during the this time, and know that COVID relief will not be provided by other sources or government entities as the appeals court suggested.

We thank the delegation once again for their steadfast support now and always, and we look forward to arguing our case in front of the Supreme Court.

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For background on ANCs and the CARES Act, please go to <https://ancsaregional.com/cares-act/>.