

Liz Clement

From: Naomi Harris [Naomi@jamhi.org]
Re: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 8:42 AM
To: Liz Clement
Subject: FW: Practitioner support for HB 78 Incentives

From: Naomi Harris
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 8:41 AM
To: 'Representative_Bob_Herron@legis.state.ak.us'
Subject: Practitioner support for HB 78 Incentives

RE: HB 78 Incentives for Certain Medical Providers

I am writing in support of HB 78. Passing this bill would be instrumental in ensuring that rural communities have a hook to attract qualified social workers. More importantly HB 78 provides an incentive for community members to seek continuing education to enhance their ability to become qualified practitioners in their home community. As a member of the Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, one of our goals is to continue to grow the profession within Alaska, HB 78 would provide one tool to further this goal.

Additionally, on a personal note, my goal as an Alaska Native has always been to provide services and support for the community that supported my professional growth. In that vein, as a young person I traveled to the lower 48 to gain education and experience I could bring back to my home community in Alaska. However, the return was a more difficult decision since there were fewer Support-for-Service opportunities in Alaska while the state requires more continued education credits for practitioners to remain licensed. I value my accreditation and am committed to maintaining my license. I feel it affords clients and my community assurance that they are getting the best support possible. I would truly value any programs that can financially support this work and enabling other practitioners to provide their own best services for communities in need.

I appreciate the committee's willingness to hear the bill and we look forward to its movement through the political process.

Best Regards,

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