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2/26/25

Senator Loki Tobin  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 115  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Tobin,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 89, which aims to improve access to healthcare in Alaska by ensuring that Physician Assistants (PAs) can practice effectively and to the full extent of their training. As healthcare providers who undergo rigorous education and clinical training, PAs are a crucial part of the healthcare system, especially in underserved and rural areas of Alaska.

SB 89 will make significant strides in improving healthcare delivery by addressing the collaborative agreement process between PAs and supervising physicians. It offers the flexibility necessary for PAs to practice under appropriate supervision while maintaining the high standards required for patient care. Furthermore, the bill provides provisions for telehealth, which will be especially beneficial for PAs working in remote areas, ensuring that even those living in Alaska's most distant communities can access quality medical services.

As Alaska faces challenges in providing healthcare, particularly in rural and remote areas, SB 89 presents an opportunity to address physician shortages and expand the reach of medical services. This bill ensures that PAs can contribute more effectively to meeting the needs of Alaskans, enhancing both the efficiency and accessibility of healthcare in our state.

I respectfully urge you and your colleagues in the legislature to support Senate Bill 89. By doing so, you will be taking a critical step in improving healthcare access, particularly for Alaskans in underserved communities, and maximizing the potential of highly trained healthcare providers.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. I look forward to your support in ensuring the continued success of healthcare delivery in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jamie Lytton, DMSc, PA-C  
Physician Assistant  
Neuroversion Pain Clinic, LLC

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**From:** Betsy Douds <betsydouds@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 6:18 AM  
**To:** Sen. Löki Tobin <Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** SB 89 letter of support

Dear Senator Tobin,

My name is Betsy Douds-Paczan, AKAPA past president and current executive committee member. I am a Physician Assistant working in addiction and behavioral health medicine in Anchorage, and I am offering this letter in support of SB89. I moved to Alaska 33 years ago looking for adventure, and I very happily found my home here. Raising my daughter in Alaska with my \_\_\_\_\_ husband has been a dream come true. The health of our community is important to me and it is clear that giving PAs parity with our NP colleagues will benefit all Alaskans.

We are seeking modernization of our profession in Alaska. SB89 will remove outdated constraints which create undue administrative burden and cause valuable providers to move out of state where they can practice more easily. SB89 will eliminate the requirement for experienced PAs to have a collaborative physician and an alternate collaborative to sign our license, which currently act as deterrent to those who would otherwise hire PAs. The collaborative plan has not and does not work in practice the way that it was originally intended. Yet we continue to be bound by out-of-date restrictions

that are interfering with our ability to practice. SB89 will not change or expand the way that PAs practice medicine. It is a tool that will allow PAs to join our workforce more easily. We will continue to be regulated by the state drug monitoring program, be licensed by the DEA for prescribing, meet our continuing medical education requirements, be regulated by the State Medical Board, and take our national certifying exam every ten years. It is time to update these obsolete statutes that currently limit the ability for PAs to practice to their full ability as the excellent providers which we have been for Alaskans since first arriving in the 1970's.

I encourage you to support passage of SB89 to modernize our profession and increase access to healthcare in Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration,

Betsy Douds-Paczan, MPAS, PA-C

Executive Committee, Past President AKAPA