

Alaska State Medical Association

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March 24, 2009

Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom
Alaska State House
Capitol, Room 411
Juneau, Alaska

RE: HB 204 – Increase WWAMI Class Size

Dear Representative Dahlstrom:

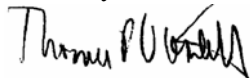
The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) represents Alaska physicians statewide and is primarily concerned with the health of all Alaskans.

ASMA supports HB 204 and thanks you for taking the leadership and initiative in introducing it.

ASMA has long supported increasing the WWAMI class size and worked hard several years ago to double the matriculants from 10 to 20 per year. In fact, ASMA has had a policy to increase the class size to 30 when it is practicable to do so.

Finally, “growing” our own physicians, we believe, will help in attracting and retaining physicians to practice in Alaska. However, we are still going to have to make a concerted effort to recruit physicians from other parts of the country to meet with Alaska’s need for well trained physicians to provide the health care necessary for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



By: Thomas P. Vasileff, MD, President
For: The Alaska State Medical Association