

Alaska State Legislature

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Senator Bettye Davis

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SENATE BILL 118-*"An Act providing medical assistance reimbursement for the services of licensed marital and family therapists."*

SB118 adds counseling services provided by a licensed marital and family therapist to the list of optional services covered by the medical assistance program in the state.

Currently, licensed marriage and family therapists are only allowed to provide Medicaid services in community mental health clinics or physician mental health clinics. Including licensed marital family therapists to the provider list of independent licensed practitioners avails more licensed behavioral health professionals to help address the shortage of Medicaid eligible mental health providers in the state.