

Liz Clement

From: Jim Towle [JTowle@akdental.org]
it: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 2:05 PM
Subject: Rep. Bob Herron
Support for HB-78

Rep. Herron:

On behalf of the Alaska Dental Society, I'm writing to ask for your support of HB-78 Incentives for Certain Medical Providers.

If our small and rural communities are going to succeed in attracting the services of private practice dentists, Alaska will need these types of assistance to recruit practitioners. My office received a request recently from a dentist looking to relocate in Ketchikan who would treat primarily Medicaid eligible children. A resource that is needed in many small Alaskan communities, but because of student loans was asking what type of assistance is available in Alaska. HB-78 would help us ensure that Alaska could compete with other states that offer generous incentives for healthcare providers.

Your support for HB-78 is appreciated.

Jim Towle

Executive Director

Alaska Dental Society -- Pursuing policies that enhance the dental profession and the well-being of Alaskans

The information contained in this e-mail communication from the Alaska Dental Society Executive Director may be confidential and is for the use of the intended recipient(s) only. If you are not the intended recipient(s), or an authorized employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient(s), the dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this communication or its contents (including any attachments) is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately by telephone or reply e-mail and permanently delete it and any copies from your system and files.

(o) 907-563-3003 (f) 907-563-3009 (e) jtowle@akdental.org

From: David Logan [<mailto:drdave@acsalaska.net>]

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 7:58 AM

To: Representative_Alan_Austerman; Representative_Anna_Fairclough; Representative_Bill_Stoltze;
Representative_Bill_Thomas; Representative_Bryce_Edgmon; Representative_Mike_Doogan;
Representative_Mike_Hawker; Representative_Tammie_Wilson;
Representative_Mia_Costello@legis.state.ak.us; Representative_Reggie_Joule;
Representative_David_Guttenberg; Representative_Les_Gara

Cc: Representative_Bob_Herron

Subject: HB78

Members of the House Finance Committee

The Alaska Dental Society urges you to support HB78, Incentives for certain Medical Providers.

HB78 will provide financial incentives to encourage health care providers to provide care in underserved areas. The underserved areas, primarily in rural Alaska, face chronic shortages of health care providers and will continue to do so without incentives. The Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) program run by ANTHC has helped provide needed dental services but given the limited scope of treatment provided has still left a need for dentists in rural Alaska. Economics of scale and the high cost of building a dental clinic make it unlikely towns with less than 2000 in population will have a private dentist.

46 other states have recognized the difficulty in recruiting dentists into underserved areas and have one or more programs in their states to provide encouragement. Unfortunately that leaves Alaska as one of only 4 states without such a program. New dentists frequently graduate with \$200,000+ in school debt and consequently make their location choices based on the ability to repay these loans.

HB78 coupled with the economic package provided by the ANTHC subsidiaries and the FQHCs (Federally Qualified Health Centers) will provide an economic incentive for new graduates – and possibly other dentists – to provide care in underserved areas.

David Logan

Legislative Chair, Alaska Dental Society