

Liz Clement

From: Gretchen Clarke [gretchensclarke@gmail.com]
To: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:10 AM
Rep. Bob Herron
Liz Clement
Subject: HB 78 Incentives for health workforce providers

Dear Representative Herron,

I am writing in support of HB 78 Incentives for Health Workforce Providers.

As you know, Alaska is 1 of 5 states without a state-sponsored program and communities, clinics, and hospitals in Alaska lose candidates daily to other states because we don't have a program. For every dollar spent, there is a 100% return on state investment: every penny spent will mean a practitioner was filling a vacancy in Alaska. Unlike other loan programs and scholarship proposals which target students in training, HB 78 targets professionals who are ready to work immediately – and targets seasoned professionals (incentive portion of program) so greatly increases size of candidate pool; will make Alaska highly competitive (traditional loan repayment programs target only recent graduates with student debt – a smaller pool) Without action, Alaska will face ongoing recruitment costs and high locum tenens costs due to high turnover, and the length of vacancies will continue to increase health care costs in Alaska. Without action, Alaska will continue to trend toward a public health crisis in pockets of the state; and without action, Alaska can expect increased ER use, increased Medivac use, increased Medicaid travel costs, and increased costs associated with chronic disease.

Thank you for your continued support of HB 78.

Sincerely,
Gretchen Clarke
Sitka, AK

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