

**Liz Clement**

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**From:** Rachel Gearhart [Rachel@jamhi.org]  
**it:** Tuesday, March 08, 2011 2:45 PM  
**:** Rep. Bob Herron  
**cc:** Liz Clement  
**Subject:** RE: HB 78 Incentives for Certain Medical Providers

I am writing in support of HB 78. Passing this bill would be instrumental in ensuring that rural communities have a hook to attract qualified social workers. More importantly HB 78 provides an incentive for community members to seek continuing education to enhance their ability to become qualified practitioners in their home community. As a member of the Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, one of our goals is to continue to grow the profession within Alaska, HB 78 would provide one tool to further this goal and bring qualified social workers and other health professionals to the state and allow them to stay. We know this is an expensive state to live in and yet one of the most needy in terms of resources. HB78 just makes sense.

I appreciate the committee's willingness to hear the bill and we look forward to its movement through the political process.

Best Regards,

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