



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Labor + Commerce

Committee on H.B. 316 WC fees for medical treat. Dated 3-7-14
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

The proposal is broad reaching and may have serious ramifications. I urge the legislature to proceed with caution.

The proposed RBRVS based system has its foundation in the Medicare physician fee schedule, which is fundamentally flawed and broken system. It may or may not work in other states but is not a good fit for Alaska given our unique dynamics and challenges including cost of business and medical provider recruitment and retention.

As a business owner it is only thru focused management strategy & cost shifting that my clinic has been able to continue to see patients who's payers use an RBRVS system like Medicare. Workers compensation is a workers program and a safety net to insure workers stay employed or return to work quickly. If payment for medical services does not cover costs this safety net is compromised. Existing RBRVS schedules do not cover our costs.

This bill has a 5 year sunset. Five years of a Medicare type fee schedule could not be absorbed by my clinic and it would greatly affect my small business to serve patients in North Pole.

Given the potential unintended consequences and the negative ramifications this bill could have on small business healthcare providers and patients we serve. I strongly recommend not considering this bill or turning the legislation over to a study committee to fully investigate potential outcomes.

SIGNED: Juliana Ament

Testifier

NORTH POLE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND ALASKA CHAPTER AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOC.
Representing

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 Committee on HB 316 Committee Name
 Dated 3/7/14
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My concern regarding HB 316 is implementation of a fee schedule based on Medicare & Medicaid centers. Currently my practice is able to accept all patients, but with current re-imbursement levels as Medicare / Medicaid, I will not be able to continue my private practice as such. We will have to limit this patient. As a small business owner I will not be able to maintain my practice with Medicare / Medicaid rates.

I, too, am an employer and understand the need for reform, but with the broad reaching proposal as such, my concern is my ability to keep my practice viable.

SIGNED: Ruth Carson
 Testifier

Equinox Physical Therapy APTA
 Representing

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE Labor & Commerce
 Committee on HB 316 Committee Name
 Dated 3-7-2014
 Bill / Subject

The proposed changes to workers compensation will diminish provider payments so significantly that it will no longer be feasible for physicians to see work comp patients in our community. To link payments to CMS RVBS (Medicare) would essentially eliminate most physicians from caring for these patients, especially since Congress is now considering a 26% reduction in these payments as of this year.

also, payments for prescription meds, often given at the physician offices, should remain based on AWP (Average wholesale price) NOT on Manufacturer's invoice price (A much lower figure), or we can no longer provide this service.

SIGNED:

Richard H Cobden MD

Testifier

Alaska Physicians, Alaska Orthopedic Society
Representing

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907 374 4636



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Labor & Commerce
 Committee on House Bill No 316 Committee Name
 Dated 3/7/14
Bill / Subject

We disagree with the House Bill No 316.
 As a Small Business this would hurt us
 as a small PT office with Medicare fees.

SIGNED: Deborah Marsch
 Testifier
Willow Physical Therapy
 Representing
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