



Senator Fred Dyson
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Senate
Capitol Room 121
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 26, 2013

Dear Senator Dyson,

On behalf of Teladoc, I am contacting you to voice our support for pending **Senate Bill No. 80** regarding the practice of telemedicine. The Bill would allow all physicians and podiatrists licensed by the State Medical Board, to practice telemedicine in the state under certain circumstances.

As background, health care costs are rising across the nation. Alaska, specifically, represents a challenge to control health care costs given the long distances its citizens must travel for treatment and regulatory barriers to entry. All these features have exacerbated the growing shortage of primary care physicians and access to primary care physician medical services in the State of Alaska..

Telemedicine is an essential component that allows companies and health plans to offer its employees and members an affordable, accessible and high-quality health care option. It is an important solution to driving down health care costs and providing primary care access when resources are scarce.

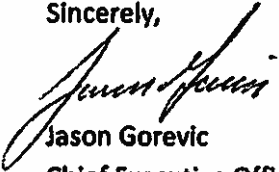
For many health care patients, leaving work to see a physician and losing hours at work can be an extreme burden from an economic standpoint. Because of that, they wait until after hours to seek care, when their primary care physician is often not available. This frequently forces these patients to visit emergency rooms, driving the cost of care up even higher. A telemedicine option, like Teladoc, allows patients to receive safe, quality care when they need it, and without the burden and cost of being examined in person beforehand. When factoring in time off from work and the cost of other options, we have been able to save employers, health plans and consumers more than \$200 per consultation (based on national averages).

However, the current regulatory requirement for a prior in person physical examination of patients by physicians conducting telemedicine prevents wider adoption of telemedicine. SB 80 will address and ease those licensing issues and allow our company to offer health care delivery options and patients the right to access quality care. In other states, such as California, telemedicine services are widely able to provide care unencumbered, allowing employers, state employees and health plans the ability to lower costs, remain competitive and offer a well-rounded benefits package.

Passing SB 80 Bill would help improve access to quality care in Alaska while reducing health care costs and provide patients with the right to choose an option that fits their individual needs. Please help move this Bill forward so we can continue to offer this effective and beneficial service to our clients members.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Gorevic", written in a cursive style.

Jason Gorevic
Chief Executive Officer
Teladoc