

Elite Rehabilitation

PHYSICAL THERAPY AND SPORTS HEALTH

**Rebecca Byerley, PT, DPT
Physical Therapist**

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**Honorable Representative Austerman
The Honorable Representative Stoltze
Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801**

Regarding: HB 316

April 10, 2014

Dear Representatives Austerman and Stoltze and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Recognizing efficiency and cost effective care seems to be on everyone's mind these days whether on the receiving or delivering side of the care spectrum. As a private physical therapist on the Kenai Peninsula, I strive to provide specialized care for a speedy recovery with the readiness to return the injured worker back to work. The proposed changes to the workman's compensation rate would significantly affect those of us providing the medical care to these individuals as currently written and I have concerns related to HB 316 and the impact on those of us who own small, independent practices.

The proposed changes are a major change to the worker's comp system. I believe physical therapists should have a voice in these discussions. Our Alaska Physical Therapy Association is urging legislators to consider adopting an amendment to HB 316 to help address this concern and proposes an amendment to Section 2 of HB 316 to allow for greater stakeholder input in the setting of the conversion factor and rates. This amendment would include other stakeholders such as those associations representing licensed health care providers on setting the conversion factors and rates.

I support reform and the efforts to improve the worker's comp system in Alaska. However, physical therapist and other health care providers should be given an opportunity to provide input and consultation in the setting of the conversion factor and rates. Reform to worker's comp requires a voice from multiple stakeholders. I will continue to strive to provide service to the people of Alaska and in maximizing the health status of these injured workers and hope that you will take this amendment into consideration.

**Respectfully,
Reb Byerley, PT, DPT
Rebecca Byerley, PT, DPT
Physical Therapist, Private Practice Owner
Past President, Alaska Physical Therapy Association
Past Chair, Kenai Peninsula Therapist Group**