

From: Lise Kirsis
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 3:58 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject:

3-14-2016

My name is Lise Klein Kirsis. I'm a Licensed Professional Counselor. I have worked for community mental health centers in Alaska for the duration of my career. I am writing today to state my strong support for telecounseling. I am asking you to support the telecounseling bill that is being discussed in the House HESS committee. My reasons are simple. Providing psychotherapy by phone is primarily a safer option than traveling great distances to get mental health services. My clients have to fly, boat or drive long distances depending on where they live to see me and to see their psychiatrist. In the winter, this is asking our clients accept the additional (what I think is unreasonable) risk of flying or boating in inclement weather for a service that is achievable over the phone, or through a system such as SKYPE. I believe that allowing telecounseling as a insurance payable service will save the state money in travel fees, and reduce travel-hazard risks that are a reality in this state.

Sincerely,

Lise Klein Kirsis, MA, MS, LPC