



ALASKA STATE HOSPITAL &
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

March 31, 2016

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Seaton,

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) represents more than 65 hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care organizations who employ over 10,000 Alaskans. Our diverse association unites every small rural hospital, large hospital system, and nursing home in the state around common goals. For over 60 years, ASHNHA members have worked to improve health care in Alaska.

ASHNHA is writing in support of HB 237 to enact the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. We believe HB 237 will ease administrative burdens for physicians interested in holding a license to practice medicine in multiple states, while allowing states to maintain control over medical licensure, discipline and patient protection.

According to the director of the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, over the last year the average processing time for a medical license in Alaska has been between 16 and 18 weeks. This is an increase over the length of time from previous years. Our members have expressed concerns about the time it takes for a physician to be licensed in Alaska. Care to patients is impacted if a new physician must sit idle waiting for weeks or months for a license to be processed.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact has been enacted in 12 states most of which are rural sparsely populated states like Alaska. Another 14 states have introduced legislation. We believe this legislation offers a new, voluntary expedited pathway to licensure for qualified physicians who wish to practice in multiple states, increasing access to health care for patients in underserved or rural areas. We are glad legislation is being considered in Alaska.

We appreciate your work as the sponsor of this legislation. Please share our support with the House Finance Committee as they consider HB237. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to support this legislation moving forward.

Sincerely,

Becky Hulberg