
From: Lynette Bergh
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 5:57 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: HB 237

-----Original Message-----

From: Gayle [mailto:gayle@msfm.net]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 3:38 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 237

Dear Representative Thompson:

As a physician and life long Alaskan I am strongly urging you to vote against HB 237, Interstate Compact. This bill has many serious and concerning aspects from a medical and general point of view.

A significant concern is that the Compact will supersede state law. Rules made by the minimally accountable "Interstate Commission" will have the force and effect of law. What entity will be able to countermand rules and regulations instated by the IC?

Is the House certain that there are NO conflicts of interest regarding the Compact and entities promoting the Compact?

Provisions, in the Compact, relating to disciplinary and investigative activities are concerning for possible application to non-Compact licensees as the Compact language does not restrict these broadened powers to only Compact licensees.

Current Board certification is required for Compact participation. How is this going to impact Alaskan physicians who have either "grandfathered" into their board status or, for whatever reason, chose NOT to Board certify? (GASP! Not board certified? There are many Alaskan docs who are not boarded but are none-the-less excellent physicians)

This Compact is not necessary for the practice of telemedicine, although the supporters of the Compact would like us to believe just that. Besides, do we really want a physician from an urban setting in the lower 48 handling issues in our villages or rural communities? There will be a significant disparity in understanding the unique needs of our Alaskan communities.

Why does Alaska need to rush to participate in the Interstate Compact when many other states (La, VT, VA, OK, OH, MO, WA, MI, DE, TX, CA, NM) are either rejecting or delaying implementation?

Obamacare has been, and continues to be, an abysmal failure and a real enemy to the Physician- Patient relationship. Many people have seen their health insurance costs increase dramatically despite promises otherwise.

Physicians are already drowning in a morass of paperwork and more has been heaped upon us.

I urge you to vote against this bill.

I urge you to look at medical cost sharing entities and see how these organizations can be used to work FOR Alaskans and to reduce overall health costs, both individually and governmentally.

Thanks much for your time and service for our community and state.

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