



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

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February 9, 2018

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Senator Giessel:

The Alaska State Medical Board has reviewed Senate Bill (SB) 108, which proposes to streamline the medical application process, established a licensing program for certified medical assistants, and authorize the Board to set standards for delegation of routine duties to unlicensed assistive personnel.

The Board supports the proposal to streamline the licensing process, which will improve licensure processing times, while ensuring public safety, by allowing the board to grant additional authority to their executive staff for the issuance of medical licenses and temporary permits.

As you know, the Board has for some time supported a statute change to allow them to set standards for delegation of routine duties to unlicensed assistive personnel. They are pleased that you are interested in introducing such legislation.

Although the Board has previously opposed a new licensing/registration program for medical assistants, they understand and appreciate your intent to establish jurisdiction for those that have earned a national certification and may be appropriately delegated specific, supervised duties, including acting as delegates for reviewing the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP.)

Although the Board did express concern that the cost and resources needed for such a program be carefully considered in moving forward with the legislation, including the need for additional staff to administer the new licensing program and approval authority, they believe that the additional licensing fees should offset those additional costs to the Board.

The Board supports this proposed legislation. The Board also expressed their thanks for your attention to these legislative issues related to their licensing programs.

Sincerely,

Craig Humphreys, MD, President
Alaska State Medical Board

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Website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/StateMedicalBoard.aspx>