

**From:** Barb Doty  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** SB 108  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:53:49 PM

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Rep. Kito:

I oppose the removal of sections 3 and 4 of this bill as the required licensing of medical assistants which are entry level and do not have prescribing or independent medical care privileges would be costly, unnecessary, and add to the already onerous administrative burden of medical practice that is driving the cost of Alaska's health care through the roof without significant improvement in health outcomes. Your recommendation is ill advised.

Barbara J Doty M.D.

Alaskan family Physician for 35 years

Former member, American Academy of Family Physicians Board of Directors

**From:** Bj Aldrich  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Chris Birch](#); [Rep. Gary Knopp](#); [Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard](#)  
**Subject:** SB 108  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 3:36:32 PM

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Dear State Representative,

My name is B.J. Aldrich and I am a Family Practice physician. I am the director of the Student Health and Counseling Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

I am writing to you about SB 108 which was introduced by Sen. Cathy Giessel. I support this bill overall, particularly Section 3 relating to the delegation of routine medical procedures to medical assistants. Regarding Section 4, while I don't believe state certification is necessary for medical assistants, I am not against it.

I have heard that Rep. Kito is considering removing sections 3 and 4 and requiring **all** medical assistants to be licensed. I oppose this move as I believe it is unnecessary and will add costs and overhead burden to the hiring of medical assistants. At our clinic here, we utilize medical assistants to perform routine tasks directly under the supervision of licensed medical providers. Due to this supervision necessity along with the option of certification, I believe requiring medical assistants to be licensed is unwarranted.

I ask that you please support passing SB 108 as written.

Respectfully,

Betty J. (B.J.) Aldrich MD  
Director  
Student Health and Counseling Center  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
907-474-7043, fax 907-474-5777

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**From:** Harbir Makin  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** SB 108  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 3:27:39 PM

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Dear Representative Kito:

This bill just does not make sense ! All the medical assistants do in an office is check in and check out patients, and at the most check blood pressure etc. They do not make any treatment decisions like an RN, a NP or a PA might.

This is another layer of bureaucracy that makes hiring more difficult and expensive. These workers really pose no threat to the patients, and unlike nurses, nurse practitioners or physician assistants, the MA's do not make any treatment decisions.

I hope you will reconsider the consequences of this bill. We are already struggling with high costs in running primary care offices.

Best,

Harbir Makin, MD

**From:** robtory haight  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** SB 108  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 6:17:51 PM

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Dear Rep. Kito, I am against requiring all MA's in Alaska to be certified/licensed. I have been practicing medicine in Alaska for 20 years. In that time, I have relied heavily on unlicensed MA's to perform routine functions in the care of my patients. In the past 18 years in Juneau, I have worked almost exclusively with unlicensed MA's. These workers work under close supervision of licensed medical providers and are trained well in outpatient medical procedures such as drawing blood, performing x-rays, giving vaccinations, and taking medical histories from patients. Many primary care clinics would not be able to afford licensed LPNs or RNs and requiring current working unlicensed MA's to stop working in order to obtain the required certification would cause a serious disruption in patient care.

Thank you for your time.

Robert W. Haight MD/Family and Urgent Care Medicine/Juneau, AK

**From:** Crisandra McCarthy  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** SB 108  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 4:06:08 PM

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Please keep SB 108 as written and do not amend it. If your guidelines for amending it is using that of the Nurse Aide statutory provisions, please be informed that as medical assistants, we receive different training compare to what they get. As the saying goes, "DO NOT FIX WHAT IS NOT BROKEN". As a Medical Assistant, we work side by side as a team with our doctors/providers when providing patient care. Never in my entire Medical Assisting Career have I had to use my independent judgement when giving patient care. Not only were Nationally recognize as Certified Medical Assistants, we are also Internationally recognize. This is a waste of the state money whose already broke & man power.

**Crisandra McCarthy,CMA(AAMA)**  
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**From:** Margaret E Kellogg  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** SB 108  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:46:14 AM

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Making MA's be licensed in the state of Alaska is a bad idea. Certified yes. Most MA's don't do anything that should require a license. They take vitals room patience and assist patients administratively. They do not prescribe meds or anything that should require them to be licensseed.

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**Margaret E. Kellogg Office Manager/Insurance Coordinator**

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**From:** Robin Wahto  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** SB 108 - MEDICAL CARE/LICENSING/MEDICAL BOARD  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:29:19 AM

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Representative Kito,

I am opposed to the proposed changes to SB 108 that would remove Section 3 and 4. Requiring all medical assistants to be certified/licensed with the state will create unnecessary costs, and cause barriers to the hiring of medical office personnel. This will negatively impact patient care.

I do not believe there is legitimate public health and safety concerns to warrant the licensing of all medical assistants. Medical assistants have been employed by physicians in Alaska since the 1960's; I personally have been a member of the Alaska Medical Assistant Society (established in 1968) since 1981 and am not aware of any reported problems or actual events related to patient safety involving medical assistants during the past 35 years.

Medical assistants work under supervision of the physicians that employ them. SB 108 as passed by the Senate would establish authority for the Alaska Medical Board to set regulations regarding the delegation of duties to medical assistants. It is my feeling that the current version of SB 108 appropriately allows certification/licensing of medical assistants to be directed by the Alaska Medical Board.

There are currently only two other states in the US, South Dakota and Washington, that require full licensing of medical assistants. There are several other states that require limited licensing. In these states, it is my understanding that the licensed medical assistants are allowed to perform more advanced procedures; whereas medical assistants who are not licensed are allowed to perform routine duties. I believe this type of limited licensing would be most beneficial for the state of Alaska. This can be accomplished with the current version of SB108.

I support SB108 as passed by the Senate.

Robin Wahto  
Director of UAA Medical Assisting Program 1990 - 2017

**From:** Dwight Ellerbe  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** SB 108  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:51:31 AM

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I am not in favor of the amendment to require licensing of Medical Assistants. This would incur huge and unnecessary administrative costs and hassles for both the MA workforce and the physicians that hire them. Please eliminate this amendment.

Dwight M Ellerbe MD  
Alaska Center for Ear Nose and Throat



**From:** George Rhyneer  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** SB 108  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 11:04:06 AM

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Dear Representative Kito: Please don't amend SB 108 to require medical assistants to have a license. It's a heavy and not needed requirement that is a significant burden and without a major necessity. Medical assistants work in and under the license and supervision of their doctor who is by tradition and law responsible for their actions. Also medical assistants have an extremely varied job which is very different from one office to another, making some sort of license difficult to design or administer to cover all of their myriad duties. It would cost something to design, administer and follow by the division of licensing and have little or no effect on the quality of services now provided. George S. Rhyneer, MD, cardiologist in Anchorage (former member of Medical licensing board)

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# Alaska State Medical Association

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April 11, 2018

Honorable Representative Sam Kito  
Alaska State House  
State Capitol, Room 124  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House CS for SS for Senate Bill 108

Dear Chairman Kito:

On behalf of the Alaska State Medical Association representing over 500 Alaska based physicians, I am submitting this letter in strong opposition to House CS for SS for Senate Bill 108. ASMA supported the Senate version of SB 108 as transmitted to the House. The three goals of the Senate version were to:

1. Allow the Executive Director of the Medical Board to issue temporary licenses to clean applications as opposed to waiting for the Board to meet and issue the licenses. ASMA supports this provision. (Section 1&2)
2. Allow the Board to adopt regulations providing for delegation of routine medical procedures to unlicensed personnel. ASMA supports this provision. (Section 3) and,
3. Allow the Board to adopt requirements for certification of medical assistants. This provision was for the sole purpose of allowing a physician to delegate looking up information on the prescription drug database (PDMP). Current law requires persons using the PDMP to be licensed or registered under title 08 of Alaska statutes. (Section 4) ASMA believes full certification is overkill for the sole purpose of using the PDMP and will add costs but has noted it is workable and supports passage.

House CS for SS for Senate Bill 108 removes sections (3) and (4) and would require all medical assistants to be licensed. ASMA believes this will create unnecessary costs and burden hiring employees, affecting hundreds of medical offices, rural health clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes across the state. If passed overall healthcare costs will go up not down.

The state's Nursing Board currently authorizes APRN's to delegate routine medical procedures like injections to medical assistances under their supervision. (AS 08.69.805) It was recently discovered that Medical doctors lack the same authority under State Statues. This discovery has disrupted current practice norms that have existed for decades and needs to be fixed. This strange state of affairs is the primary but not only reason ASMA supports passage of the original Senate version of SB 108.

Sincerely,

Mike Haugen  
Executive Director  
Alaska State Medical Association

CC: Senator Kathy Giessel, Crystal Koeneman



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Julie Wilson, M.D. • Jennifer Davis, PA-C • Helene Eliassen, M.D. • Tonya Caylor,  
M.D.

To: Honored Representatives

From: John Nolte, MD

Re: SB 108

Dear Representatives,

The local chapter of the AAFP has informed us of the pending bill which the local American Association of Family Physicians and the Alaska State Medical Association endorse. We are also aware of intent by Rep Kito to modify the bill to require licensure of medical assistants which the above organizations and Hillside Family Practice opposes.

My wife and I operate a busy family practice clinic in south anchorage since 1998. We have hired numerous medical assistants over the years – many certified MA's and many uncertified. While Rep Kitos' intent to protect the public from MA's that have been fired is laudable, frankly it has not been a problem so long as a clinic follows good employment practices. We have found checking references, the state criminal database and the Medical Group Management Association has caught the few bad players. Creating another level of bureaucracy increases cost, delays employment and outweighs any potential good. Are we going to not hire a person because they have been fired?

Many of our assistants have no medical training. They are looking for experience to help guide their search for a well matched occupation. In fact, our untrained assistants include 4 current physicians, 5 PA's, 2 RNs. Young people use this opportunity as a stepping stone for advancement in the medical field. How are you going to license someone like that? Many start as a receptionist, then desire to help with medical care and are taught skills as they go. When do they become medical assistants and not receptionists? All of our providers are actively involved in teaching from career academy, medical students, residents, PA's and NP's – we love helping young people develop and grow.

I encourage you to not make entering the medical profession more burdensome than it already is.

Respectfully – John Nolte, MD

John Nolte, M.D. • Miriam Nolte, M.D. • Scott DeBerard, D.O. • Rachel Coleman, PA-C  
Julie Wilson, M.D. • Jennifer Davis, PA-C • Helene Eliassen, M.D. • Tonya Caylor,  
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