

Ted Madsen

From: Shigone Beighle <[REDACTED]@obhn.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:04 PM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: HB97 statement of support

Dear House Health & Social Services Committee:

I am currently working as Pediatric Psychiatric PA with Orion Behavioral Health and I strongly request and support HB97 revising Alaska law to allow PAs to use telemedicine without being subject to limitations like requiring an in-person exam before a PA may treat a patient via telemedicine. This requirement limits patient access to care when licensed and qualified providers are available to provide services via telemedicine- which is particularly important in rural areas of Alaska. I grew up in an Alaskan village and many of my friends and family suffer from lack of access to care. I pursued a career in pediatric psychiatry in order to help with this tremendous shortage. Telemedicine offers a lifeline to rural Alaskan pediatric patients in need of psychiatric care, and access to care in general.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Shigone Beighle, Pediatric Psychiatric PA-C
Adolescent & Child Psychiatry
Orion Behavioral Health Network

Ted Madsen

From: Kim Werner <[REDACTED]@obhn.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:48 AM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: HB97

Dear House Health & Social Services Committee:

I am currently working as a Medical Assistant with Orion Behavioral Health and I strongly request and support HB97 revising Alaska law to allow PAs to use telemedicine without being subject to limitations like requiring an in-person exam before a PA may treat a patient via telemedicine. This requirement limits patient access to care when licensed and qualified providers are available to provide services via telemedicine- which is particularly important in rural areas of Alaska. Our providers provide care for many of the villages and rural areas such as Ketchikan, Eastern Aleutian Islands, Maniilaq and our providers not being able to prescribe the necessary medication in a timely manner greatly affects the care of our pt's.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Kim, MA

Orion Behavioral Health Network
17025 Snowmobile Lane
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

<http://www.obhn.org>
tel: 907-696-7466
fax: 907-726-0332