



March 27, 2019

Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
State Capitol, Room 411
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 97 – Telehealth: Physician Assistants; Drugs

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins,

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) writes this letter in support for HB 97, an act relating to prescription of drugs by a physician assistant without physical examination. ASHNHA is a membership organization representing Alaska's hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other health care providers.

HB 97 allows for the amendment of AS 08.64.101 to explicitly allow physician assistants to render a diagnosis, provide treatment, prescribe, dispense, or administer a prescription drug to a person without conducting a physical examination as per the nationally recognized model policy for standards of care for a patient who is in a different location.

ASHNHA was actively involved during the process of passing SB74 Medicaid reform legislation that expanded access to telehealth services. Based on our participation in that process we believe the intention was to allow physician assistants to provide telehealth services within the scope of their license.

We appreciate this legislation to fix the issue and believe this legislation will help improve access to care and address challenges faced by workforce shortages, particularly in rural Alaska.

Please let us know how we can further assist your office in advancing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Becky Hultberg
President/CEO