



## ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Löki Gale Tobin  
*Education Committee Chair*

EDUCATION  
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
JUDICIARY  
TRANSPORTATION

### **Senate Bill 89: Physician Assistant Scope of Practice Sponsor Statement**

We have all heard about long wait times and difficulty accessing care across Alaska. This frustrates patients and creates impediments to quick diagnosis and treatment. Senate Bill 89 utilizes the existing facility licensing procedures to allow physician assistants (PAs) working at these locations to provide medical care to the fullest extent of their licensure, increasing the capacity of our medical system and reducing unnecessarily strict regulations on physician assistants.

Senate Bill 89 maintains the collaborative agreement structure currently in place for physician assistants working outside licensed medical facilities, while reducing the bureaucratic burden on the PAs working within them. Physician assistants will continue to receive oversight from the State Medical Board.

Alaska has a demonstrated need for increasing accessible medical care, reducing high medical costs, and decreasing barriers to experienced medical practitioners across Alaska. The majority of the physician assistants in Alaska practice in rural areas. This bill reduces the bureaucratic burden for these medical professionals and their employers. Ensuring access to medical care in rural Alaska produces better outcomes and less expensive care for residents and our statewide system. This also allows patients to stay in their home communities, thereby reducing strain on hub communities.

Senate Bill 89 does not sacrifice medical rigor or oversight. It simply allows licensed physician assistants to continue to offer high quality medical care within their scope of practice at qualified medical facilities across the state. Thank you for considering this legislation.