

March 2, 2026

Co-Chair Carolyn Hall

Co-Chair Zack Fields

House Labor and Commerce Committee

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska

Sent via email: Representative.Carolyn.Hall@akleg.gov Representative.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov

Re: Letter of Support for HB 352 – Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Dear Co-Chair Hall, Co-Chair Fields, and Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

On behalf of Alaska Radiology Associates (ARA), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 352, which would authorize Alaska's participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLCC).

Alaska Radiology Associates provides critical diagnostic and interventional radiology services to hospitals and healthcare facilities across Alaska, including Providence facilities statewide, Norton Sound, and hospitals serving some of the most rural and medically underserved communities in the nation. Alaska faces extraordinary healthcare workforce challenges due to its geography, limited transportation infrastructure, and longstanding physician shortages. Nearly all of Alaska is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area or Medically Underserved Area, and recruiting and retaining subspecialized physicians—particularly radiologists—remains exceptionally difficult.

For radiology specifically, access to subspecialty expertise such as interventional radiology, neuroradiology, and breast imaging is essential to timely diagnosis and high-quality patient care. HB 352 would significantly improve our ability to meet these needs by allowing qualified out-of-state physicians to obtain Alaska licensure through an expedited, well-regulated pathway. Participation in the IMLCC would enable ARA and our hospital partners to more effectively utilize teleradiology coverage, locum tenens support, and permanent recruitment from the more than 43 states already participating in the compact.

From a patient care perspective, HB 352 would directly improve access to timely diagnostic and interventional services, particularly in rural and remote communities where delays in imaging interpretation can have serious consequences for patient outcomes. From an operational standpoint, the bill would allow healthcare providers to better manage call coverage, subspecialty reads, and fluctuations in imaging volume without overburdening Alaska's limited existing physician workforce.

Alaska Radiology Associates is fully committed to supporting HB 352 and believes this legislation represents a pragmatic, bipartisan solution to Alaska's healthcare workforce challenges. Joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact aligns with national best practices, strengthens Alaska's healthcare infrastructure, and most importantly, serves the best interests of Alaskan patients.

We respectfully urge the House Labor and Commerce Committee to advance HB 352 and appreciate your leadership in addressing the critical healthcare access needs facing our state. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide testimony, data, or additional perspective in support of this important legislation.

Please feel free to call me on my personal cell 907.330.7044 if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Ward Hinger
Chief Administrative Officer
Alaska Radiology Associates

CC:

- Dr Reed ARA Practice President
- Kevin Jardell, ARA's Government and Public Affairs Consultant