



ALASKA  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD  
ADVISORY BOARD ON  
ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE

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Kermit E. Wilson, Executive Director

February 12, 2026

Senator Matt Claman  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 83 – Telehealth Reimbursement Rates

Dear Senator Claman,

The Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) and the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) are statutorily charged with advising, planning, educating, and coordinating behavioral health services and programs funded by the State of Alaska. The Boards are also tasked with evaluating federal and state laws concerning mental health, alcohol, and other drug and substance misuse prevention and treatment services (A.S. 47.30.661, A.S. 44.29.100).

SB 83 requires that health insurers in Alaska reimburse health care services provided by telehealth at the same rate as in-person services.

AMHB-ABADA supports the passage of SB 83, believing that as Alaska experiences a critical shortage of mental health and addiction service providers, anything the state can do to support more providers in serving Alaskans, especially those living off the road system where access to behavioral health support is limited or non-existent, should be encouraged.

Thank you for introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Bobby Dorton, Chair  
Advisory Board on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

Tonie Protzman, LPC, Chair  
Alaska Mental Health Board

Kermit E. Wilson, Executive Director