



Senator Wilson,

The Alaska Dental Society supports SB45, Version A, Direct Health Agreement: Not Insurance.

The ADS supports SB45 as a valuable tool for patients of all healthcare providers but feels it is especially useful for dental patients. Roughly 50% of dental patients have some form of employer provided dental benefit leaving the other 50% to shoulder the cost of dental care on their own. Passage of SB45 would:

- Provide a mechanism for reduced fees for patients without dental insurance
- Allow more patients to receive dental care they would otherwise struggle to afford
- Help patients achieve better overall dental health by having continuous care

Allowing healthcare providers to enter into direct contracts with patients would reduce the overall costs to healthcare providers by eliminating the overhead costs associated with processing insurance claims. For dental offices the cost for processing insurance runs 4-7% of the overall overhead costs. Patients who consider purchasing traditional dental insurance quickly find the 15-35% administrative costs in dental insurance make this a poor economic choice for individuals. Dentists would be able to pass along these savings via direct agreements.

If I can provide any further information or answer any questions, I can be reached at 907-687-3492 or heather.willis@spruceroots.net.

Sincerely,

Heather Willis, DDS
Governmental Affairs Chair, Alaska Dental Society