



Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

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ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

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ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

ARCTIC SLOPE
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL BAY AREA
HEALTH CORPORATION

CHICKALOON VILLAGE
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

CHUGACHMIUT

COPPER RIVER
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES

KARLUK IRA
TRIBAL COUNCIL

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE

KETCHIKAN
INDIAN COMMUNITY

KODIAK AREA
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN
COMMUNITY

MT. SANFORD
TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF EKLUTNA

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF TYONEK

NINILCHIK
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

NORTON SOUND
HEALTH CORPORATION

SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE

SOUTHCENTRAL
FOUNDATION

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM
HEALTH CORPORATION

VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE

April 10, 2026

Senator Jesse Bjorkman
Chair, Senate Labor & Commerce
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: ANHB Support for HB 110: Social Work Licensure Compact

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee:

The Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)¹ writes on behalf of the Tribal Behavioral Health Directors (TBHD) in support of House Bill (HB) 110, which would authorize Alaska to join the Social Work Licensure Compact. TBHD represents large and small, rural and urban Tribal behavioral health and substance use treatment programs working together to provide a comprehensive continuum of behavioral health care in Alaska.

The Social Work Licensure Compact would allow licensed social workers in participating states to obtain multistate authorization to practice, reducing duplicative licensing requirements and improving workforce mobility. For Alaskan communities that continue to face persistent shortages of behavioral health providers, this added flexibility could help expand access to services and support continuity of care.

Participation in the Compact would allow qualified social workers from other member states to practice in Alaska without securing a separate state license. This may support expanded telebehavioral health services for Alaskans, allow providers located outside the state to deliver care when appropriate, and provide additional options for short-term coverage, clinical supervision, or temporary staffing needs. It may also improve access to specialized behavioral health services, particularly meaningful for rural and off-road communities where recruiting and retaining licensed providers remains an ongoing challenge.

Under the Compact, however, practitioners generally follow the continuing education requirements of their home state, which may not include training on Alaska law, Tribal health systems, or the realities of rural and remote service

¹ ANHB was established in 1968 to promote the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people. ANHB is the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues and is the advocacy organization for the Alaska Tribal Health System, which is comprised of Tribal health programs that serve all of the 229 Tribes and over 234,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people throughout the state. As the statewide Tribal health advocacy organization, ANHB supports Alaska's Tribes and Tribal health programs to achieve effective consultation and communication with state and federal agencies on matters of concern.

delivery. We respectfully encourage consideration of modest safeguards such as an Alaskan Law module, regulatory guidance from the Board of Social Work Examiners, or an orientation addressing Alaska-specific practice considerations to help ensure providers are better prepared to serve our communities.

HB 110 represents an important step towards expanding the behavioral health workforce at a time when Alaska's needs are widely recognized. ANHB appreciates the Legislature's ongoing attention to behavioral health access and workforce challenges in Alaska, and we urge the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee to advance this bill.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact ANHB at anhb@anhb.org or (907) 729-7510.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. F. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "W" and last name "Smith" being the most prominent parts.

Chief William F. Smith, Chairman
Alaska Native Health Board