



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

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February 25, 2025

Alaska State Senate
Alaska State House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re. Conditional Statement of Support – SB 89 – Physician Assistant Scope of Practice

Dear Members of the Legislature,

Senate Bill 89 would allow physician assistants to practice independently in a declared specialty after completing 4000 hours of post graduate clinical work under the supervision of a collaborating physician. At its meeting on February 21, 2025, the State Medical Board voted in support of SB 89 – but with reservation and recommendations for the following changes:

- Add a requirement for the collaborating physician to sign off on the physician assistant's hours and establish a mechanism for ensuring competency in a chosen specialty at completion of the required 4000 hours of supervised clinical experience.
- Add a requirement for physician assistants to qualify to practice in a remote location, a physician assistant with less than two years of full-time clinical experience must work 160 hours in direct patient care.
 - The first 40 hours must be completed before the physician assistant begins practice in the remote practice location. The remaining 120 hours must be completed within 90 days after the physician assistant begins practice in a remote location with an advanced practice provider (APP) or physician onsite who has two or more years of full-time clinical experience.
 - Add a definition for "remote practice location" to mean a location in which a physician assistant practices that is 100 or more miles by road from the nearest primary, secondary or tertiary care facility

The Board would urge your support of SB 89 with the above recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Brent Taylor", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Brent Taylor, M.D.
Board Chair