

Konrad Jackson

From: Aryeh Levenson <aryehlevenson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2025 8:29 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce; Sen. Löki Tobin
Subject: Support of SB89

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 89, which aims to improve access to healthcare in Alaska by ensuring that Physician Assistants (PAs) can practice effectively and to the full extent of their training. As healthcare providers who undergo rigorous education and clinical training, PAs are a crucial part of the healthcare system, especially in underserved and rural areas of Alaska.

I am a physician who has worked 30 years in Alaska, with the majority of that in the Native health sector. In that capacity and after while in the private sector I have worked with, supported and been a collaborative physician for a number of very competent PA's. All of whom have been very aware of not just their competencies but also areas in which they needed to reach out for consultation. This is important not just for PA's but all health care professionals.

SB 89 will make significant strides in improving healthcare delivery by addressing the collaborative agreement process between PAs and supervising physicians. It offers the flexibility necessary for PAs to practice under appropriate supervision while maintaining the high standards required for patient care. Furthermore, the bill provides provisions for telehealth, which will be especially beneficial for PAs working in remote areas, ensuring that even those living in Alaska's most distant communities can access quality medical services.

As Alaska faces challenges in providing healthcare, particularly in rural and remote areas, SB 89 presents an opportunity to address physician shortages and expand the reach of medical services. This bill ensures that PAs can contribute more effectively to meeting the needs of Alaskans, enhancing both the efficiency and accessibility of healthcare in our state.

I respectfully urge you and your colleagues in the legislature to support Senate Bill 89. By doing so, you will be taking a critical step in improving healthcare access, particularly for Alaskans in underserved communities, and maximizing the potential of highly trained healthcare providers.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Aryeh Levenson, MD