

17 January 2018

To The Honorable Anna MacKinnon
State Capitol Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801
Via Email – Senator.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov

Subject: Letter in Support of SB#126

Dear Senator MacKinnon:

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill #126 allowing exemption for travelling team physicians. Senator Anna MacKinnon has graciously sponsored this legislation which has been gaining approval nationally. I have been practicing Orthopedic Surgery in the Anchorage area since 1996 when I came up through a military assignment and am currently in private practice caring for a number of professional, collegiate, and high school athletic teams. I am currently Alaska's state representative to the National Council of Delegates for the Association of Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine. This organization has been involved in a national referendum to allow travelling team physicians to care for their athletes when they cross state lines. There is no national licensure and currently travelling physicians do not have specific allowances to care for their teams unless they make specific arrangements with physicians within the state they're travelling in. This can lead to delays in care as well as not allowing those physicians which know these athletes best to care for them.

This legislation is limited in scope; allowing those team physicians to take care of only their athletic team members and only while they're in the state participating in their sporting activity. An example would be allowing an outside team physician to care for one of their athletes with exercise induced asthma. These physicians would not have the ability to do surgical procedures here as that would also require hospital privileges.

This bill (or a similar facsimile) has been passed in 35 states to date, including the state of Washington; and is pending in 13 other states including our great state of Alaska. I have contacted our national chairman and to his knowledge there have been no unintended

Letter in Support of SB #126

consequences and no adverse outcomes with this legislation. This bill will help close the gap in taking care of our athletes while not hindering Alaska's state Medical Board's authority ensuring the safety of its constituents. It is a straight forward bill with limited scope that allows appropriate care of travelling athletes as they participate in sporting events in our state. As each state passes this legislation, it will also allow team physicians from Alaska to travel across state lines with the same ability to care for our players.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (907)301-1283 or email jsmoore@gci.net.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey S. Moore, MD