



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
LICENSING

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September 7, 2023

House Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801
House.Finance@akleg.gov

Re: SB 74/HB 137 – Physical Therapy Compact Licensure Letter of Support

Dear Chairs Edgmon, Foster, Johnson and Committee Members,

The Alaska State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board unanimously supports SB 74 and HB 137; both acts relating to an interstate physical therapy compact.

The Board's decision is based on evidence including presentations and supportive testimony from key stakeholders including Alaska licensed physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, the Alaska Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association, the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, public testimony, the testimony from other state physical therapy and occupational therapy boards, and representatives from the Physical Therapy Compact Commission.

Over thirty states have already become PT Compact States. In addition, all but five remaining states have either introduced or have enacted legislation to be able to issue compact privileges.

Benefits of PT Compact Licensure includes:

- Improving interstate access to physical therapy care for all Alaskans
- Reducing administrative burdens of full licensure expediting licensure for healthcare providers
- Vetting of all licensees applying for compact privileges or permanent licensure through stringent background checks
- Recruiting and retaining competent healthcare providers to fill critical shortages

The board prefers the Senate SB 74 committee substitute version as it does not require fingerprints for existing Alaska licensees upon renewal or application for compact privileges which will reduce the overall cost by up to half of implementation of the bill. The board would also request the committee consider an extension of the effective date of the bill to July 1, 2025, to allow adequate time for the necessary board regulations project and Division changes to implement this complex bill.

Thank you for your support for this legislation. Please feel free to reach out to the licensing board if you have any questions regarding the physical therapy compact or licensing.

Most Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Tina McLean

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Tina E McLean, PT, DPT, ATC-L, CMTPT, GTS (Chair)
State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board