THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
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February 2, 2018

The Honorable Mia Costello
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce
State Capitol, Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for hearing SB 108 – Medical Care/Licensing/Medical Board sponsored by Senator Giessel.

The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) began undertaking a strategic planning and streamlining process several years ago. A central goal of this work was streamlining processes for medical licensure. DCCED began by overhauling the professional licensing program to allow for increased automation. The Alaska Medical Board has been and continues to implement regulatory revisions to remove unnecessary or unduly burdensome licensing requirements.

This legislation will enable the staff of the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing to act more nimbly, process medical applications efficiently, and allow the Executive Administrator and Medical Board to focus their attention and time on more complex applications that require their expertise. It does this without diminishing the power or authority of the board, and in a way that maintains public safety and protections.

Alaska is in need of high quality medical providers. Thank you for your prompt and favorable action on this legislation that allows for expedited licensure of these providers and makes Alaska an easier state to do business.

Best regards,

Mike Navarre
Commissioner

cc: Darwin Peterson, Director, Legislative Office, Office of Governor Bill Walker