

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

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April 21, 2025

The Honorable Senator Scott Kawasaki. Senate State Affairs Chair The Honorable Representative Ted Eischeid, House Military & Veterans' Affairs Chair Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 119 and 412 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Sent via email: Senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov, House.Military.And.Veterans.Affairs@akleg.gov

Re: Statement of Support - SB 145 & HB 158, Professional Licensing; Temp Permits

Dear Chairs Kawasaki and Eischeid, and Members of the Legislature,

At its meeting on April 17, 2025, the State Medical Board voted unanimously in support of Senate Bill 145 and House Bill 158. These bills would allow a pathway for applicants for professional licensure in Alaska to be issued a temporary license for applicants who hold a substantially equivalent license in good standing from another U.S. jurisdiction or meet the qualifications for Alaska licensure through military education, training and service and do not already hold a license in another jurisdiction. The bills would also conform State law with the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, which requires states to issue a servicemember of servicemember spouse a state license within 30 days of application, so long as they meet all criteria.

These bills will make it easier for qualified licensees in good standing to come to Alaska to fill vacancies and assist Alaskans in need of their services.

For many years, the Medical Board has successfully utilized the strategy of issuing temporary permits to its licensees as a tool to expedite getting physicians and physician assistants to work in Alaska and supports the expanded use of this approach to other professions.

The Alaska State Medical Board urges you to hear and vote in favor of SB 145 & HB 158.

Sincerely,

Brent Taylor

Chair