

Konrad Jackson

From: Maria Rollins <mariadbellova@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 8:22 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support for SB 89 – Physician Assistant Scope of Practice

Dear Members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee,

I am writing in strong support of **Senate Bill 89**, which seeks to modernize and improve the scope of practice for Physician Assistants (PAs) in Alaska.

As a licensed PA with over 9 years of experience, I have dedicated my career to serving some of the most vulnerable populations in our state, including those with severe mental illness. I currently practice in Alaska's **only state-run psychiatric hospital**, where the shortage of psychiatrists presents ongoing challenges to delivering timely, effective care.

Despite my qualifications, extensive clinical experience, and board certification, I remain legally dependent on a collaborative plan with a supervising physician in order to practice. While I highly value collaboration within the healthcare team, the current **mandatory collaborative agreement** creates a bottleneck in care delivery—**especially in facilities where psychiatrists are already in critically short supply**. Locum physicians often rotate in and out, leaving me and my patients in limbo as we wait for administrative approvals or signatures. In these moments, the collaborative plan doesn't ensure safer care—it actively **hinders access** to it.

Requiring a collaborative plan **does not increase the quality or safety of care**, but it **does limit flexibility, efficiency, and patient access** in a system that is already strained. Removing this requirement will empower competent, experienced PAs like myself to **practice to the full extent of our education and training**, especially in underserved and high-need areas.

SB 89 is a thoughtful and necessary step toward aligning Alaska with national best practices and strengthening our healthcare workforce at a time when the need has never been greater. I urge you to vote **yes** on this bill and allow PAs to continue delivering high-quality care without unnecessary administrative barriers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria D. Rollins, PA-C
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