THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

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May 6th, 2025

The Honorable Scott Kawasaki
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Ted Eischeid
Chair, House Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Letter of Support for SB 145 & HB 158: PROFESSIONAL LICENSING; TEMP PERMITS

Dear Chairs Kawasaki and Eischeid,

The Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners ("board") supports SB 145 and HB 158: Professional Licensing; Temp Permits. The board supports this legislation because it establishes a single, streamlined temporary license for qualified professionals currently licensed in another U.S. jurisdiction that has substantially equivalent requirements for licensure, as long as that professional is in good standing and has been for the last decade. Those professionals will still need to meet Alaska's standard requirements for permanent licensure, providing boards with the ability to continue to examine the credentials of professionals coming to Alaska on a permanent basis the way we do now, but with this legislation, those professionals can start practicing in the state much sooner, while they work to complete the permanent licensure application process. Courtesy licenses can continue to be provided by the board under AS 08.01.062, which is essential for events like the Alaska Iditarod.

Additionally, this legislation brings Alaska law into compliance with federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) licensure portability laws, by requiring the department to issue a professional license to a military servicemember or spouse who holds an out-of-state license, relocates to Alaska under military orders, and meets the requirements set in federal law.

We urge the Legislature to hear and pass SB 145/HB 158.

Sincerely,

Robert Gerlach, VMD
Chair, Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners