



ALASKA REGIONAL AFFAIRS  
ALASKA WWAMI PROGRAM  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

March 2, 2009

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Senator Kim Elton  
Chair, Senate Health Education and Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Building, Room 506  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

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RE: SB 18

Dear Senator Elton:

During the Senate Education Committee meeting on Friday, February 27, 2009, you requested a position from the University of Washington School of Medicine side of the Alaska WWAMI partnership on whether we support a provision requiring Alaska WWAMI graduates to have a certain percentage of the patient panel be Medicare/Medicaid patients.

We take no position on that provision, as it is a state of Alaska public policy issue. Instead, we look to our University of Alaska WWAMI partner to make any statement for or against that requirement.

The discussion during the committee hearing covered many medical education topics. I did want to follow up on that discussion. Each year, we look for ways to expand the experiences that students can have in Alaska. This year we started a 5-month training experience (WRITE- WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience) in Juneau. We have in the works elective clerkships in Radiology, Chronic Care Pain Management, Dermatology and Otolaryngology. We hope to have students in them by September. Also, in September our new required Family Medicine site in Nome will start taking students. We look forward to continuing this process and to maintaining a strong and healthy WWAMI partnership in Alaska.

Thank you for considering SB 18; please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Best regards,

*Harborview*  
*Medical Center*

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