

February 3, 2010

State Representative Kurt Olson
State Capitol, Room 24-A
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
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RE: House Bill 314 Amendments


Dear Chairman Olson,

It has come to my attention that there is to be a hearing this afternoon on House Bill 314. As a physical therapist in Alaska I am very concerned about the proposed addition of subsection (D) to Sec.2 AS23.30.097 (a) (1) as it is currently written in House Bill 314. My concern is specifically with the wording found on page 2, lines 14-17, where Workman's Compensation fees are, "not to exceed the fees or other charges as specified in a usual, customary, and reasonable fee schedule established by the board and adopted by reference in regulation".

The consequences of House Bill 314 would be a detrimental to Alaska's workers injured on the job and the health care professionals providing them with care. House Bill 314 would grant a great deal of power to this Board with the sovereignty to set fees without any basis other than "usual, customary, and reasonable". This wording is far too vague for such an important issue. It lacks an explanation of basis for fees, composition of board members, frequency of change for fees, or the process to appeal the fees determined by the board. At the very least, this board should have to recognize an established standard for fees, such as those from the United States Department of Labor. Failure to do so will drastically affect the care of injured workers and the providers that care for them.

Please do not allow House Bill 314 to be added into Alaska's Statutes. It has no place

Sincerely,


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