



ALASKA STATE HOSPITAL &
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

February 6, 2013

The Honorable Kurt Olson
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: House Bill 141, Workers' Compensation Medical Fees

Dear Representative Olson:

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA), which represents hospitals and nursing homes across Alaska, would like to offer its support for HB 141 as currently drafted and as passed out of the House Labor & Commerce Committee.

As providers and as (frequently) the largest private sector employers in our communities, we understand the burden of high workers' compensation costs. We feel those costs within our own workforces and we understand the burden on other local employers.

With respect to the specific elements of this bill, we support the concept that workers' compensation rates in the Lower 48 states paid by Alaskan employers should reflect those local markets. We strongly believe that Alaska's hospitals and providers can and should care for the vast majority of patients here at home. However, when circumstances do require patients to travel out-of-state for care, Alaska should pay rates that are appropriate for that local market.

We understand that the challenges regarding workers' compensation are significant and cannot be addressed by this bill alone. As you and other members of the Legislature consider other workers' compensation changes, we hope you will consider us a stakeholder in working with you to improve the current system.

As the legislation has passed out of the House Labor & Commerce Committee, we hope that you have the opportunity to share this letter with other members of your body and with the Alaska State Senate as well.

Sincerely,


Karen Perdue
President/CEO