

State of Alaska
Senate and House Judiciary Committees

January 22, 2015

Re: Medication Assisted Treatment in Alaska

Dear Representatives and Senators of Alaska,

I have had the opportunity to practice medicine in the state of Alaska for the past 12 years as a physician assistant in a primary care setting. As one of the very few practitioners who see patients with substance abuse, lack of financial resources can be devastating. My patients are unable to afford medications, and inpatient or outpatient treatment.

Substance abuse is a major cause of mortality and morbidity in Alaska. Offering treatment for patients who suffer from this affliction is ethically necessary.

Most individuals who suffer with substance abuse cannot hold down a steady job or afford health insurance.

Funding programs for drug assistance would be very helpful.

Sincerely,

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