



ALASKA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
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April 7, 2015

The Honorable Lynn Gattis
House Health and Social Services Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

cc: The Honorable Paul Seaton
Chair, House Health and Social Services Committee

Re: Support of HB 161

Dear Representative Gattis:

The Alaska Physical Therapy Association supports the intent of HB 161 and the potential cost savings it would provide to the people of Alaska. Finding appropriate durable medical equipment is a high priority for our patients, and the current system of only providing new equipment limits patient options for obtaining the equipment they need at a reasonable cost and in a timely manner.

We do, however, have some concerns about the bill language as it exists in its current form. Our main concern about this bill has to do with patient safety. A potential risk associated with using used/refurbished equipment is that all returned equipment would need to be inspected and repaired prior to going to its new owner, and there is no detail in the bill for how that would occur, i.e., who would be refurbishing equipment, who would be the re-seller, and who would be in charge of determining that the used equipment is safe.

Given the geographic size of Alaska and the number of people served, an undertaking of this magnitude would require considerable resources in order to assure that any used/refurbished equipment going to patients would be safe. We would encourage the committee to consider adding language that addresses these issues and provides specificity for how the vendor would be selected, the safety criteria that would need to be satisfied, and the process by which the decision is made whether to provide used/refurbished or new equipment.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your work on behalf of Alaskans with disabilities. We look forward to working with you and providing input on the regulations pertinent to this statute should it be promulgated.

Respectfully,

LeeAnne Carrothers, PT, PhD
AKAPTA President



American Physical Therapy Association