



January 28, 2020

Senator David Wilson
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 134 – Medicaid Coverage of Licensed Counselors

Dear Senator Wilson

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) is a membership organization representing Alaska's hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other health care providers. ASHNHA is pleased to write this letter in support of SB 134, an Act relating to medical assistance reimbursement for the services of licensed professional counselors.

ASHNHA supports efforts to improve access to behavioral health services throughout Alaska and to expand the types of providers who can receive reimbursement for caring for Medicaid recipients with behavioral health needs. We believe Medicaid reimbursement for licensed professional counselors places these credentialed clinicians on the same level as other clinicians, and provides a valuable step for addressing the unmet needs of Alaskans and our workforce.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. Please let us know how we can further assist your office in advancing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jared Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO