

Konrad Jackson

From: randisweet@alaskan.com
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 10:53 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: Sen. David Wilson; Jasmin Martin
Subject: Letter of Support for Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (SB74)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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23 March 2023

Via email: Senate.Labor.AND.Commerce@akleg.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (SB74)

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am writing to you to ask for your support the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact to attract and retain Physical Therapists to Alaska so that Alaskans will have access to physical therapy (PT).

When a person has an injury or illness that requires PT, they need the care timely. It is important for quality of life and the best results for recovery.

In 2009, I had a fall on the ice and broke my femur (thigh bone) which required surgery, weeks of non-weight bearing on the injured leg, and rehabilitation with a physical therapist. I was fortunate to have a wonderful Physical Therapist who over a matter of several weeks helped me return to walking. It was intimidating to start but through guidance, I was able to be successful.

In 2019, I was unable to sit without pain, associated with the prior injury. I consulted with an orthopedist and was referred to PT. I was fortunate enough to return to the same physical therapist, receive treatment and resolve the issue.

All Alaskans must be able to access timely physical therapy when needed. The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact with regulatory safeguards (SB74) will expand options for Physical Therapists to work in Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

s/Randi Sweet
PO Box 804
Seldovia, AK 99663-0804

cc: Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov
Jasmin.Martin@akleg.gov



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

March 8, 2023

Chairman Jesse Bjorkman
Senate Labor and Commerce
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 74 and SB 75, Occupational Licensure Compacts

Chairman Bjorkman:

On behalf of the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of the policy changes expressed in SB 74 and 75, which addresses licensing issues affecting our service members and their families.

The Speech-Pathology and Audiology Compact and the Physical Therapy Compact allow military spouses in these professions to continue to work, without the cumbersome process of relicensing, when they move to the State of Alaska. These compacts will promote reciprocity and reduce the barriers to license portability.

Occupational Licensure compacts have been identified by the Department of Defense as the best form of licensure reciprocity for professionals moving across state lines. SB 74 and 75 provide specific provisions to support military spouses. The individual may retain the home state designation during the period the service member is on active duty. Subsequent to designating a home state, the individual shall only change their home state through application for licensure in the new state.

We are grateful for the tremendous efforts that Alaska has historically made supporting our military members and their families. We especially thank Senator Wilson for sponsoring this legislation.

Please feel free to contact me at Tammie.L.Perreault.civ@mail.mil or (571) 424-8264 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tammie L. Perreault", is positioned above the typed name.

Tammie L. Perreault
Northwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office
Military Community & Family Policy



ALL ALASKA
PEDIATRIC
PARTNERSHIP

March 22, 2023

The Honorable David Wilson
Alaska State Senate

Dear Senator Wilson,

I am writing on behalf of the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership to express our support for Senate Bills 74 and Senate Bill 75. Our program, Help Me Grow Alaska (HMG-AK), connects families and children to resources and services they need as close to home as possible.

Over the last several years, families have contacted HMG-AK needing to be connected to a range of services, many of which fall under the scope of SB 74 and SB 75, to include speech-language pathology, pediatric physical therapy, and pediatric occupational therapy. Currently, there are high waitlists for these services due to a shortage of providers in these fields. The administrative burden and extended lengths of time it takes for Alaska licensure is one of the greatest barriers to expanding Alaska's workforce and to providing access to these services through telemedicine to our communities off the road system.

According to our data, in 2022 we served over 900 children with close to 300 of those specifically expressing a need for speech, physical therapy and occupational therapy services. In 2023 thus far, we have served 340 families with 114 of those needing connection to these services.

Passage of SB 74 and SB 75 would increase access to care and increase the number of clinicians in our state, thus decreasing the number of waitlists for services that Alaska's children and families desperately need.

Thank you for sponsoring SB 74 and SB 75 and for you overall commitment to children and families in Alaska.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tamar Ben-Yosef".

Tamar Ben-Yosef
Executive Director
All Alaska Pediatric Partnership
907-903-6770
tamar@a2p2.com