



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

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April 7, 2023

Alaska State Senate
Alaska State House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re. Statement of Support - SB 83 and HB 85 – Universal Temporary Licensure

Dear Members of the Legislature,

The State Medical Board unanimously voted in support of SB 83 and HB 85 – Universal Temporary Licensure - during a meeting on March 30, 2023. The Board cited in its decision the ability for division staff to expedite the temporary licensure process and the ability to extend temporary licensure for an additional 180 days as being especially favorable for licensees of the Medical Board. Although a temporary permit process currently exists in statute under AS 08.64.270, it is more cumbersome and time-consuming than what this new legislation proposes.

Alaska is experiencing a workforce shortage in healthcare and the Medical Board needs new tools to help expedite the process to get qualified professionals to work in Alaska. The provisions outlined in SB 83 and HB 85 would establish a pathway for physicians and physician assistants who hold a license in good standing from another U.S. jurisdiction to be able to be issued a time-limited license to practice in Alaska while the full medical licensure/vetting process is completed. Senate Bill 83/ House Bill 85 does not detract from the Board's ability to exercise due diligence in the licensing process.

The State Medical Board supports this legislation as ensuring an efficient, safe, expedited licensing process and urges your support as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard J. Wein, M.D., F.A.C.S.".

Richard J. Wein, M.D.
Chair, Alaska State Medical Board