

Alaska State Medical Association

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February 14, 2023

The Honorable Bill Wielechowski
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 55 “An Act extending the termination date of the State Medical Board”

Dear Senator Wielechowski:

The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) represents physicians statewide and is primarily concerned with the health of all Alaskans.

ASMA would like to express our support for Senate Bill 55. The Alaska Medical Board provides critical services to Alaskans in regulating the practice of medicine and licensure of physicians. As the audit, conducted by Legislative Budget and Audit (LB&A) notes, the Board had a complete turnover at the same time as its workload had significant increases due to COVID-19. Volunteer Board members met frequently, and sometimes weekly, to meet the challenges of COVID-19 while effectively licensing physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists and physician assistants.

ASMA supports the LB&A recommendation to extend the Medical Board’s termination date until June 30, 2031.

Sincerely,



Pam Ventgen
Executive Director
Alaska State Medical Association