



January 22, 2024

Senator Löki Tobin
State Capitol Room 11
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: ANTHC Support of Senate Bill 115

Senator Tobin,

On behalf of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), I write in support of Senate Bill (SB) 115, *“An Act relating to physician assistants; relating to physicians; and relating to health care insurance policies.”*

ANTHC is the statewide tribal health organization serving all 229 Tribes and all Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) people in Alaska. ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation co-manage the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), the tertiary care hospital for all AN/AI people in Alaska. ANTHC also provides a wide range of statewide public health, community health, environmental health and other programs and services for Alaska Native people and their communities.

At ANMC and across the Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS), physician assistants (PA) play a critical role in caring for our patients, especially in our remote and rural communities, where timely access to services can be especially challenging. SB 115 acknowledges these challenges and the critical role of PAs in Alaska’s health care delivery system, providing long overdue updates to the outdated and increasingly costly administrative barriers currently in law.

The proposed legislation recognizes these administrative deficiencies, and would enable a greater degree of flexibility among physicians and provider groups to focus on their community and patient need, helping ensure Alaskans across the state have access to high quality care in a timely manner.

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring SB 115. Please do not hesitate to contact me at mmartin@anthc.org or 907-365-9334 with any questions or if additional information can be provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monique R. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Monique R. Martin, Vice President
Intergovernmental Affairs

CC Senator Giessel, sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
4000 Ambassador Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Main: (907) 729-1900 | Fax: (907) 729-1901 | anthc.org