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# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9) Date Referred: January 10, 1994 FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 3/17/94

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: HB 341

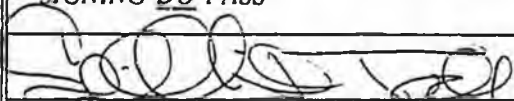
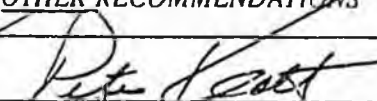
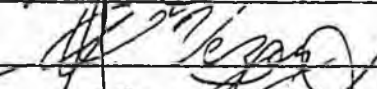
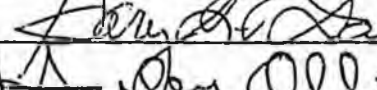
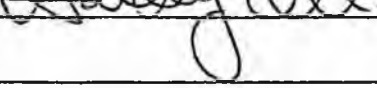
HOUSE BILL NO. 341 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS' SERVICES

"An Act relating to physician assistants; and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDATIONS:  
 be replaced with CS HB 341 (HESS)  the same title  
 a new title  
 have attached amendments(s)  
 do pass  
 do not pass  
 no recommendations  
 individual recommendations  
 additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)  
 fiscal impact H+SS<sup>2</sup>  fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 zero fiscal note Labor, Commerce  zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
	✓			✓	
Betty Davis	✓			✓	
Tom Price	✓			✓	
Con Bunker	✓			✓	

  
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE



# Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives  
 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION  
 AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: 3/17/94

PLACE: Capitol Room 106

SUBJECT OF MEETING:  
 \* HB 440: SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: AK BINDER PREFERENCE  
 \* HB 488: RESTRICT STUDENT LOANS TO ALASKA SCHOOLS  
 \* HB 341: PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS SERVICES  
 \* INDICATES FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
DAN SHERMAN	ACPE	3030 Vintage Blvd				Y (N)	Available for questions HB 488
BOB WARD	AGC	16003 FRANK MARL DR JUNEAU AK 99801		789-3713	586-1648	(Y) N	ASG
Joe Mc Cormick	ACPE	3030 Vintage Blvd				Y (N)	will answer questions
Kim Busch	DMA					Y (N)	will answer questions
Dana W. Williams	DMA					(Y) N	
JOHN RILEY	Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants	1217 E 10TH AVE ANCHORAGE AK	99501	257-4600		(Y) N	HB 341
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	



**Alaska State Legislature**  
**House of Representatives**  
 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION  
 AND SOCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

DATE: 3/17/94

PLACE: Capitol Room 106

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?		WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Duane Guley	DOE	801 WEST 10 <sup>th</sup> ST. STE 201 JUNEAU, AK. 99801			465-8677	Y	N	AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	

LN1100-R01  
03/17/94

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK

PAGE 01  
15:48:39

TCN: 40530 DATE & TIME: 03/17/94 15:00 TO 17:00 STATUS:7 STATS: LM

\*\*\*\* ORDER SUMMARY \*\*\*\*

SPONSOR: HHS HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVI CHAIRS: TOOHEY  
PURPOSE: PUB PUBLIC HEARING LEGISLATIVE RUNDE  
CONTACT: LYNN TEL#: (907)465-6025  
CHAIRING SITE: JUREAU CAPITOL CAP106

SPONSOR REMARKS(TOP): TESTIMONY:Y ALLOWED 2 MINUTE LIMIT  
TESTIMONY WILL BE TAKEN WITH A 2 MINUTE LIMIT.  
TCN REQUESTED ON 03/17/94 AND HAS 3 UPDATES

\*\*\*\* AGENDA \*\*\*\*

1 HB 341 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS' SERVICES

\*\*\*\* PARTICIPATING LIDS \*\*\*\*

BAR BARRON	COURTHOUSE #305	LOCATION STAFF
FBX FAIRBANKS	119 N CUSHMAN ST	LOCATION STAFF
* JNU JUNEAU	CAPITOL CAP106	LOCATION STAFF
HAT MATSU	155 E PARKS HWY.	LOCATION STAFF
SEM SEWARD	2001 SEWARD HWY	LOCATION STAFF

\*\*\*\* VOLUNTEER & OFFNET SITES \*\*\*\*

ZZZ OF1 OFFNET 1	MCCRATH	BRENT URSEL	(907)524-3299
ZZZ OF2 OFFNET 2	PELTICAN	CLAY LANGLAND	(907)735-2250
ZZZ OF3 OFFNET 3	TALKEETNA	JESSICA STEVENS	(907)733-2273
ZZZ OF4 OFFNET 4	HEALY	JOHN WINKLEMAN	(907)683-2211
ZZZ OF5 OFFNET 5	SEAGWAY	LILA GUNNELL	(907)983-2255
ZZZ OF6 OFFNET 6	GALENA	WENDY HLADICK	(907)656-1891

PARTICIPANTS IN: BARRON

BAR

1 MS	BEVERLY	HUGO	SELF	OBSV. HB 341
	BOX 677		BARRON	AK 99723 (907)252-5333

PARTICIPANTS IN: FAIRBANKS

FBX

1 MS	JEANNE	CLARK		TSFY. HB 341
	479 SLATER DRIVE		FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)452-4117
2 MS	TON	WILSON		TSFY. HB 341
	546 AQUILA ST		FAIRBANKS	AK 99712 (907)457-7798
3 MS	ROBERT	WOODS		TSFY. HB 341
	751 OLD RICH HWY.		FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)451-6561
4 MS	CINDY	HOLLAND		OBSV. HB 341
	P.O. BOX 82684		FAIRBANKS	AK 99708 (907)479-4444
5 MS	REBECCA	DEAN		OBSV. HB 341
	751 OLD RICH HWY.		FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)451-6561

PARTICIPANTS IN: JUNEAU

JNU

1 RLP	C	TOOHEY		TSFY. ALL ITEMS
-------	---	--------	--	-----------------

2 REP	C	BUNDE	AK	(907)000-0000
3 REP	H	OLBERG	AK	(907)000-0000
4 REP	A	VEZET	AK	(907)000-0000
5 REP	G	DAVIS	AK	(907)000-0000

101100-R01 LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK PAGE 02  
 03/31/94 DATE & TIME: 03/17/94 15:00 TO 17:00 16:49:39  
 TUN: 40530 STATUS:7 STAS: IN

PARTICIPANTS IN: JUNEAU JRU

6 REP.	B	DAVIS	AK	(907)000-0000
7 REP	F	BRICE	AK	(907)000-0000
8 REP	J	SITTON	AK	(907)000-0000
9 MR.	?	RILEY	AK	(907)000-0000
10	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
11	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
12	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
13	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
14	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
15	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
16	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
17	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
18	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
19	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
20	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
21	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
22	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
23	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000
24	TO	OBSERVE	AK	(907)000-0000

PARTICIPANTS IN: QATSU MAY

1 MR.	EDWARD	HANNING	AK	OBSV. HB 341
	P O BOX 87740	WASILLA	AK	99687 (907)373-6361

PARTICIPANTS IN: SEWARD SER

1 MR.	REV	CLAUSEN	AK	OBSV. HB 341
	PO BOX 2681	SEWARD	AK	99664 (907)224-3816
2 MR.	DIJA	DE ROER	AK	TSFY. HB 341
	PO BOX 1526	SEWARD	AK	99664 (907)224-8468
3 MR.	RICHARD	JONES	AK	TSFY. HB 341
	PO BOX 361	SEWARD	AK	99664 (907)224-5205
4 MR.	DAVID	JOHNSON	AK	TSFY. HB 341
	PO BOX 3465	SEWARD	AK	99664 (907)224-5205

PARTICIPANTS IN: OFFNET 2 ZZZ OF 2

1	CLAY	LANGLAND	AK	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
		PELICAN	AK	(907)000-0000

PARTICIPANTS IN: OFFNET 3 ZZZ OF 3

1	JESSICA	STEVENS	AK	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
		TALKEETNA	AK	(907)000-0000

PARTICIPANTS IN: OFFNET 4 ZZZ OF 4

1	JOHN	WINKLEMAN	AK	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
		HEALEY	AK	(907)000-0000

H/HESS ROLL CALL FORM

BILL HB 332 341 DATE 3/17/94  
 TAPE 94-55, A NUMBER 176  
 SUBJECT OF VOTE ↑ PASS HB 341 OUT OF COMMITTEE

MEMBER	YEA	NAY	ABS
Rep. Cynthia Toohey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Con Bunde	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gary Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Al Vezey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Pete Kott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Harley Olberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Bettye Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Irene Nicholia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Brice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>—</u>

+++++

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 TAPE 94- NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUBJECT OF VOTE \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER	YEA	NAY	ABS
Rep. Con Bunde	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gary Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Al Vezey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Pete Kott	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Harley Olberg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Bettye Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Irene Nicholia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Brice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Cynthia Toohey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>



## SEWARD GENERAL HOSPITAL

P.O. BOX 365 • 417 FIRST AVENUE • SEWARD, ALASKA 99664-0365 • (907) 224-5205 • FAX (907) 224-7248

March 17, 1994

Rep. Toohey and Rep. Bunde and members,  
Health, Education and Social Services Committee

Re: HB 341, Testimony

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to provide information regarding HB341 which would recognize Physicians Assistants as mid-level providers by medicaid and to ask for your support of HB341.

Rather than providing a long position paper on the role of Physician Assistants (PA) and Nurse Practitioners (NP) I will provide information to hopefully assist you in understanding what a Physician Assistant is and their role in meeting healthcare demands in Alaska, and why I believe they should be reimbursed for their services to medicaid patients.

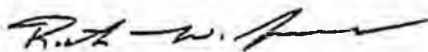
- \* Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners have analogous training.
- \* PA's practice under the auspices of the Board of Medical Examiners.
- \* NP's practice under the auspices of the State Nursing Board.
- \* PA's and NP's are licensed to practice medicine within their approved scope of practice after thorough review and examination.
- \* The approved scope of practice is dependent on individual training, experience and practice setting, as well as existing state laws.
- \* Both PA's and NP's practice clinically. They diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries within their scope of practice.
- \* PA's are trained according to a "medical model" in PA programs; NP's are trained with varying degrees of combined "medical/nursing model" emphasis in nursing programs.
- \* Both are currently employed by state and federally owned and operated healthcare organizations (clinics, prisons, hospitals, etc.)
- \* PA's and NP's are designated as "mid-level providers." Mid-level providers are in very short supply nationwide, and the state of Alaska currently has many PA/NP position openings.

Health, Education and Social Services Committee  
HB341 Physician Assistant Testimony  
Page 2

- \* DPA/DMA does issue provider numbers for some PA's located in remote rural settings. The remainder of the PA's can provide services to medicaid patients, but cannot bill for their services.
- \* The Dept. of H&SS is in a comfortable position -- "of having their cake and eating it too." The PA's are licensed to practice medicine, but the department does not pay for those services by language of the current statute.
- \* The Department has stated that "the PA's can practice but cannot bill for services and cannot bill under their collaborative physician.
- \* With passage of HB341 PA's would be able to obtain an individual provider number.
- \* PA's and NP's currently bill Medicare, VA, BIA, private pay and private insurance for services.
- \* NP's have a provider number and bill medicaid.
- \* Billing by use of their own number would clearly identify on the statement that the bill is for services provided by a PA.
- \* PA's are able to bill for medicaid services in other states. Practice opportunities in those states are more attractive to PA's and PA's are more attractive to those institutions and physicians who hire them.
- \* The current practice by the state of not recognizing PA's for medicaid reimbursement further limits the available candidates for Alaska's vacant mid-level positions.
- \* The Physician Assistant is a "physician extender" and the role is intended to meet the needs of underserved populations.

I urge your support of HB341

Sincerely,



Richard W. Jones,  
Administrator/CEO

#1

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HB 341

Page 2, lines 3 - 7:

Delete all material.

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

# Alaska State Legislature

*While In Fairbanks*  
119 N. Cushman St.  
Suite 203  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907-456-8161



*While In Juneau*  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
907-465-2327  
907-465-4713

Representative Joe Sitton

## EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENT #1 TO HB 341

**THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE DMV HAVE PROVIDED US WITH INFORMATION THAT THE LANGUAGE IN THE FEDERAL LAW GOVERNING HANDICAPPED PARKING PERMITS PRECLUDES PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS. THEREFORE, THE STATE DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO ENABLE PA'S TO ISSUE PERMITS.**

#2

8-LS1417A.1 ✓  
Lauterbach  
3/11/94

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HB 341

Page 3, lines 5 - 6:

Delete

- "(5) advanced nurse practitioner services;
- (6) physician assistant services;"

Insert

- "(5) physician assistant services;
- (6) advanced nurse practitioner services;"

# Alaska State Legislature

*While In Fairbanks*  
119 N. Cushman St.  
Suite 203  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907-456-8161



*While In Juneau*  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
907-465-2327  
507-465-4713

Representative Joe Sitton

## EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENT #2 TO HB 341

**WHEN THE BILL WAS BEING DRAFTED, WE SIMPLY FORGOT THAT THE LIST OF OPTIONAL SERVICES WAS AN "INVERSE LIST." THAT MEANS, WHEN THE LIST IS UNDERFUNDED, SERVICES ARE CUT FROM THE TOP OF THE LIST, INSTEAD OF THE BOTTOM. IT WAS ALWAYS OUR INTENTION TO ADD PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS TO THE LIST, BUT AT THE POINT WHERE THEY WOULD BE UNFUNDED BEFORE ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONERS. THAT IS WHAT THIS AMENDMENT DOES.**

March 15, 1994

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to you to ask for your support of HB#341, sponsored by Rep. Joe Sitton and Rep. Jeannette James. There is a similar Senate bill, SB#231, which is sponsored by Sen. Jay Kertulla.

These bills are important to prevent any insurance company from denying payment of services provided by a Physician Assistant. Currently, there are several companies that will not pay for medical services if provided by a Physician Assistant. (Nurse Practitioners and Chiropractors already have obtained legislation to prevent insurance companies from denying payment.)

The other important part of these bills is establishment of Medicaid reimbursement. At this time, Medicaid patients, in some remote areas, are denied care due to the fact that Medicaid will not authorize PA's Medicaid numbers to bill for services. In turn, these patients either don't receive care or are flown to town (at cost to Medicaid) for care.

These bills were developed after identification of some of the barriers to health care through discussion between the Interior Legislatures (or their aides) and Physician Assistants from Fairbanks. There have been letters of support from many organizations which include the Health Care Coalition, Alaska Nurses Association, and the Alaska State Medical Association to name a few.

The Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants is actively working on these and other issues that will streamline the ability to provide care to all Alaskans.

Thank you for your attention. I hope that we all can continue to strive toward improving health care delivery in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Howard Blount, M.D.

**HOWARD P. BLOUNT III, MAJ, USAF, MC**  
**085-60-2683 AFSC 44F3**  
**3rd Medical Center**  
**Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-5300**

*Bar  
See me  
Re answer*

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO.                      HB341

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title:           An Act Providing coverage under  
          Medicaid for Services of Physicians' Assistants  
 Sponsor:           SITTON, JAMES  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept. Affected Health and Social Services  
 BRU:           Medicaid  
 Component:           Medicaid Non-facility  
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO.           229

**Expenditures/Revenues:**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	999.6	2,780.8	3,131.2	3,525.8	3,970.0	4,470.4
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>999.6</b>	<b>2,780.8</b>	<b>3,131.2</b>	<b>3,525.8</b>	<b>3,970.0</b>	<b>4,470.4</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGES IN REVENUES	499.8	1,390.4	1,565.6	1,762.9	1,985.0	2,235.2
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**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	499.8	1,390.4	1,565.6	1,762.9	1,985.0	2,235.2
1003 GF Match	499.8	1,390.4	1,565.6	1,762.9	1,985.0	2,235.2
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>999.6</b>	<b>2,780.8</b>	<b>3,131.2</b>	<b>3,525.8</b>	<b>3,970.0</b>	<b>4,470.4</b>

Estimate of current year (FY94) impact:           0.0

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS** (attach a separate page in necessary)

The bill adds physician's assistants as an enrolled provider of services. It is estimated that 25% of the 168 licensed and active physician's assistants will enroll as Medicaid providers, beginning with a 10% enrollment in the first year. Enrollment would begin in July of 1995. Charges by a physician assistant are assumed to be 70% of the amount that has been charged through a physician's office for services performed by a physician's assistant. Physician assistants are counted as working 5 days per week, 48 weeks per year and having an average of 3.5 Medicaid visits per day. Growth and inflation combined are assumed to be 12.6% per year.

Prepared by:           Dave W. Williams  
 Division:           Medical Assistance

Phone:           465-3355  
 Date:           2/10/94

Approved by:           Margaret R. Lowe  
 Commissioner:           Margaret R. Lowe, M.Ed., Ed.S.

Date:           2-14-94

Agency:           Department of Health and Social Services

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## ASSUMPTIONS PERTAINING TO FISCAL ANALYSIS OF SB231 AND HB341

There are 194 licensed PAs in Ak; 168 are said to be in active status.

25% will enroll if the bill passes, which is 42 PAs of the active status.

35% of their practice will be Medicaid

The average charge will be \$70 per visit; reflective of 70% of the charges by PAs presently billing through physicians.

There will be 10 visits per day, 3.5 of those billed to Medicaid.

PAs will work 5 days per week, 48 weeks per year.

Assume regulations effective July 1, 1995

Growth and inflation combined are assumed to be 12.6%

## Claims

17.0 PAs enrolled first year  
 42.0 PAs enrolled 2nd year  
 \$70 average expenditure claimed per visit  
 3.5 Medicaid visits per day  
 5.0 days worked per week  
 48.0 weeks worked per year  
 0.001 factor to change figures to thousands  
 \$999.6 total claims expenditure 1st year; 17 PAs  
 12.0 factor to get to monthly  
 12.0 factor to get to paid part of fiscal year  
 \$999.6 claims expenditures for paid part of first fiscal year  
 \$2,469.6 claims expenditures for second year w/o growth and inflation

## Contractual

\$6.23 processing cost per claim  
 14280 total number of claims by PAs 1st year  
 35280 total number of claims by PAs 2nd year  
 0.001 factor to change figures to thousands  
 \$89.0 cost for claims processing 1st year  
 \$219.8 cost for claims 2nd and following years  
 \$10.0 cost to modify MMIS for PA enrollment and claims processing  
 \$99.0 total contractual for 1st year (MMIS plus claims processing)

## Inflation and growth

1.126 factor for yearly increases

## Federal participation

0.50 factor for Federal Financial Participation

0.0 factor for calls with \$0.0

Component	Combined Fiscal Note Totals					
	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
Med non-facility	229 999.6	2780.8	3131.2	3525.8	3970.0	4470.4
Claims process	243 99.0	247.6	278.8	314.0	353.6	398.2
Total	1098.6	3028.4	3410.0	3839.8	4323.6	4868.6

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO.                      HB341

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected Health and Social Services  
 Title: An Act Providing coverage under BRU: Medicaid  
Medicaid for Services of Physicians' Assistants Component: Claims Processing  
 Sponsor: SITTON, JAMES  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 243

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0.0
CONTRACTUAL	99.0	247.6	278.8	314.0	353.6	\$398.2
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0.0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>\$99.0</b>	<b>\$247.6</b>	<b>\$278.8</b>	<b>\$314.0</b>	<b>\$353.6</b>	<b>\$398.2</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>CHANGES IN REVENUES</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>123.8</b>	<b>139.4</b>	<b>157.0</b>	<b>176.8</b>	<b>199.1</b>

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	49.5	123.8	139.4	157.0	176.8	199.1
1003 GF Match	49.5	123.8	139.4	157.0	176.8	199.1
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99.0</b>	<b>247.6</b>	<b>278.8</b>	<b>314.0</b>	<b>353.6</b>	<b>398.2</b>

Estimate of current year (FY94) impact: 0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS (attach a separate page in necessary)

Contractual costs include claims processing at \$6.23 per claim with a one-time, first year cost of \$10.0 for system changes to add to the new provider type. Federal participation is available at 50% of costs. Growth and inflation combined are assumed to be 12.6% per year.

Prepared by: Dave W. Williams *DW*  
 Division: Medical Assistance  
 Approved by: Margaret R. Lowe  
 Commissioner: Margaret R. Lowe, M.Ed., Ed.S.  
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone: 465-3355  
 Date: 2/10/94  
 Date: 2-14-94

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## ASSUMPTIONS PERTAINING TO FISCAL ANALYSIS OF SB231 AND HB341

There are 194 licensed PAs in Ak; 168 are said to be in active status.

25% will enroll if the bill passes, which is 42 PAs of the active status.

35% of their practice will be Medicaid

The average charge will be \$70 per visit; reflective of 70% of the charges by PAs presently billing through physicians.

There will be 10 visits per day, 3.5 of those billed to Medicaid.

PAs will work 5 days per week, 48 weeks per year.

Assume regulations effective July 1, 1995

Growth and inflation combined are assumed to be 12.6%

## Claims

17.0 PAs enrolled first year

42.0 PAs enrolled 2nd year

\$70 average expenditure claimed per visit

3.5 Medicaid visits per day

5.0 days worked per week

48.0 weeks worked per year

0.001 factor to change figures to thousands

\$999.6 total claims expenditure 1st year; 17 PAs

12.0 factor to get to monthly

12.0 factor to get to paid part of fiscal year

\$999.6 claims expenditures for paid part of first fiscal year

\$2,469.6 claims expenditures for second year w/o growth and inflation

## Contractual

\$6.23 processing cost per claim

14280 total number of claims by PAs 1st year

35280 total number of claims by PAs 2nd year

0.001 factor to change figures to thousands

\$89.0 cost for claims processing 1st year

\$219.8 cost for claims 2nd and following years

\$10.0 cost to modify MMIS for PA enrollment and claims processing

\$99.0 total contractual for 1st year (MMIS plus claims processing)

## Inflation and growth

1.126 factor for yearly increases

## Federal participation

0.50 factor for Federal Financial Participation

0.0 factor for cells with \$0.0

## Combined Fiscal Note Totals

Component	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
Med non-facility	229 999.6	2780.8	3131.2	3525.8	3970.0	4470.4
Claims process	243 99.0	247.6	278.8	314.0	353.6	398.2
Total-	1098.6	3028.4	3410.0	3839.8	4323.6	4868.6

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 341

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Physician Assistants' Services  
Sponsor: Sitton  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Affected: Commerce and Economic Development  
BRU: Insurance  
Component: Operations  
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 354

Expenditures/Revenues:

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )	0	0	0	0	0	0
------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUND SOURCE

1002 Federal Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1003 GF Match	0	0	0	0	0	0
1004 GF	0	0	0	0	0	0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Estimate of current year (FY 94) cost: \$ 0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Joan Brown, Administrative Officer  
Division: Insurance

Phone: 465-2597  
Date: 1/19/94

Approved by Commissioner: Paul Felt  
Agency: Commerce and Economic Development

Date: 1/19/94

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# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO : HB 341

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Physician assistants. services

Department Affected: Labor

BRU: Workers' Compensation

Component: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: Representative Sitton

Workers' Compensation

Requestor: Representative Sitton

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 341

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipt						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY94) impact: \$ None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Paul Arnoldt, Director *Paul Arnoldt* Phone: 465-2790

Division: Workers' Compensation Date: 1/25/94

Approved by Commissioner: Charles W. Mahlen *Charles W. Mahlen*

Agency: Department of Labor Date: 1/25/94

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907-456-8161



While in Juneau  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
907-465-2327  
907-465-4713

Representative Joe Sitton

## SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HOUSE BILL 341, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

House Bill 341 (HB 341) would amend several of Alaska's current statutes relating to health care providers in order to give Alaskans greater access to quality health care and place physician assistants on equal footing to those providers with similar levels of training.

Currently, physician assistants practicing outside a physician's office or a designated "Rural Health Clinic" do not qualify as Medicaid providers. This becomes a critical issue in rural Alaska because many communities have physician assistants as their sole health care provider. In such a community, Medicaid eligible patients must travel hundreds of miles to receive Medicaid services. The lack of reimbursement in these settings is a direct obstacle to health care for Medicaid recipients, and unfairly reduces job opportunities for physician assistants. HB 341 remedies this situation by amending the statutes to allow physician assistants to receive payment directly.

In addition, HB 341 amends the statutes governing workers' compensation and private insurance companies to account for physician assistants' emergence as health care providers and insure that they do not have trouble receiving payment from these entities. The bill also adds physician assistants to the statute that prohibits private insurance companies from refusing to pay one health care provider if another qualified practitioner could offer the same procedure or level of care. Lastly, HB 341 enables physician assistants to issue a handicapped parking permit.

I urge you to support HB 341. It will update Alaska's statutes to account for changes in health care professions and provide Alaskans with better access to health care facilities.

# Alaska State Legislature

*While in Fairbanks*  
119 N. Cushman St.  
Suite 203  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907-456-8161



*While in Juneau*  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
907-465-2327  
907-465-4713

Representative Joe Sitton

## Sectional Analysis of HB 341 Relating to Physician Assistants

SECTION 1: AS 21.36.090(d) requires insurance companies to reimburse health care providers for services covered under an insurance plan as long as the health care provider is qualified by licensure to perform the service. This keeps insurance companies from limiting their reimbursement to physicians if the covered service can also be legally performed by other providers. Adding physician assistants to this list prohibits insurance companies from refusing to reimburse for their services.

SECTION 2: Amends AS 23.30.265(24) (Workers' Compensation) to add physician assistants to the definition of a physician and ensure that physician assistants can receive payment for services that they are qualified to provide.

SECTION 3: Amends AS 28.10.495 (Motor Vehicles) to enable physician assistants to issue a handicap parking permit.

SECTION 4: AS 7.07.030(b) details the optional medical services that are reimbursable under the state's Medicaid program. HB 341 adds physician assistants to this list.

SECTION 5: Adds physician assistants to prioritized list of optional medical services. Should the department find that the cost of Medicaid for all eligible persons exceeds the amount allocated in that year's state operating budget, AS 47.07.035 contains the prioritized list of what optional service will be paid in what order.

SECTION 6: Adds a definition of physician assistant services to AS 47.07.900 (Medicaid).

SECTION 7: Immediate effective date.

HB 341: "An Act relating to physician assistants; and providing for an effective date."

The department is in favor of section 1 of the bill, but has no position on the remaining sections of the bill.

Section 1 of the bill represents a simple modification to AS 21.36.090(d). This section of law prohibits discrimination against various medical practitioners who are performing services within the scope of their license that are covered under an insurance policy. Physician assistants would be added with this change. The change would allow physician assistants to bill and receive third-party reimbursements for the services they render. The department believes that this type of prohibition is the means to some savings in our health care system by assuring that less expensive providers of medical services can be reimbursed under an insurance policy.

The department views the issue as one of equity. If the state has established a license with a scope of practice, it is not consistent to allow discrimination against that licensee.

*Paul Fuhs*  
Paul Fuhs, Commissioner

*1-31-94*  
Date

PF/DK/dgl263.dk  
012194a

# Alaska State Legislature

While in Fairbanks  
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Suite 203  
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907-456-8161



While in Juneau  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
907-465-2327  
907-465-4713

Representative Joe Sitton

## Memorandum

TO: Representatives Con Bunde and Cynthia Toohey, Co-Chairs,  
House Health Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Representative Joe Sitton *JS*

DATE: February 28, 1994

SUBJECT: House Bill 341

After having reviewed the Department of Health and Social Services' rather large fiscal note for HB 341, I have a few points that I believe they have failed to effectively consider. What is missing from their analysis is an examination of cost shifting from patients following a PA to a new practice from the practice of the doctor or rural health clinic. Instead, what the fiscal note reflects is an assumption all Medicaid claims from PA's would be new costs to the state. Not only is this illogical, but it dramatically overstates the cost.

My first and foremost concern is the question of exactly how many new Medicaid recipients that Physician Assistants (PA's) would attract. The whole point of this bill is to increase access to health care, but I simply do not believe that 14,280 new claims the first year and 35,280 new claims the next, will be billed to Medicaid as a result of HB 341 becoming law. According to the Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants, one PA currently practices in a rural setting (Healy) outside of a designated rural health clinic or physician's office. With further allowances for a few PA's desiring some form of independence from their present practice arrangement, I still cannot reach such staggering figures for new claims. However, it is my fervent hope that such a high rate of usage would result from existing Medicaid recipients seeking services from PA's instead of physicians who charge more, thereby saving the state money at this same alarming rate.

I think if we draw upon our experience in a similar circumstance, such as when Nurse Practitioners were added to the list of optional services in 1992, we arrive at a much more reasonable figure. According to the Department's figures, an average of 36 to 38 nurse practitioners (compare to the Department's assumption of 42 PA's the second year) have billed Medicaid over the past fiscal year to date totaling \$210,473. Generously doubling this figure for the rest of the year, we arrive at a total of \$420,946 for patients and  $1,019 \times \$6.23 \times 2 = \$12,697$  for processing for a total annual cost estimate of \$ 433, 643. That is approximately one seventh of, or \$2,594,747 less than, the Department's forecast for the PA's second year of \$2,780,800 with an additional \$280,000 for administrative costs. I might add that I would expect the billable rate of 80% that Advanced Nurse Practitioners receive to be entirely appropriate for PA's as well, though that is left to Medicaid Rate Board to decided.

I hope that you will give my observations some attention, and I request your assistance in devising a more reasonable fiscal note for this bill. If you have any questions, please contact me or my aide, Michael Johnson. Thank you.



alaska academy of physician assistants

January 18, 1993

Rep Joe Sitton  
Room 609, Court  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 341

Dear Representative Sitton,

I am writing in behalf of the Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants. I would like to extend my gratitude for the work that you have done to promote the health and well being of all Alaskans by sponsoring HOUSE BILL NO. 341.

This "Bill" is very important to all Physician Assistants in the State of Alaska. It will open many doors that have been previously closed and remove some of the barriers to PA's in this state. HOUSE BILL NO. 341 covers some areas that have been of concern to PA's such as not being included in the list of practitioners who can sign "Handicapped" parking permits, not being on the list of providers for Workers Compensation. But of course, there is the big issue of not being listed as a Medicaid provider. This issue is very important in areas where PA's work at sites that are different than that of their collaborative physician or for persons who do locum tenens work.

I again would like to express my gratitude and look forward to working with you on this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry L. Campbell", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barry L. Campbell, PA-C  
President



# ALASKA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

4107 Laurel Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99508-5334 • (907) 562-2662

January 28, 1994

Rep. Joe Sitton  
Alaska State Legislature  
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Sitton:

I am writing in support of your House Bill 341 which permits Medicaid reimbursement for physician assistant (PA services). Currently physician assistants practicing outside a physician's office or designated rural health clinics do not qualify as Medicaid providers. This is a critical issue in rural communities where the PA is the only health care provider. Medicaid eligible patients in these communities may have to travel long distances to obtain Medicaid services. The lack of reimbursement in these settings is a direct obstacle to health care for Medicaid recipients. Your bill would also amend the statute so that PA's would be permitted to perform Workman's Compensation evaluations and allow private insurance companies to reimburse for physician's assistant's services. This bill will also enable a physician assistant to issue handicap parking permits. I believe this bill will benefit health care for all Alaskans. If I can be of any assistance to you on this bill, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Donald R. Lehmann, M.D.  
Chairman, Legislative Affairs Committee  
President, Alaska State Medical Association.

CC: Byron Mallot, John Riley, PA-C



# HEALTH CARE COALITION OF ALASKA

January 27, 1994

Mr. John Riley,  
President  
Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants  
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center  
1217 East 10th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Riley:

The Health Care Coalition (HCC) of Alaska is pleased to support HB341 and SB231, which allows Physician Assistants to bill for their services to the Medicaid program. The current situation works a particular hardship upon rural communities, where solo PAs are working. Even in those clinics that are federally designated as Rural Clinics Medicaid will only reimburse on a flat fee basis, with the result that the clinics are often not able to recover actual costs on cases which may consume inordinate amounts of the practitioner's time. Without question, the current system works a hardship on Medicaid eligible patients who may have to travel long distances in order to use that resource for their care.

The HCC also strongly supports SB 235, providing for the forgiveness of student loans for several categories of health care professionals (including PAs). This program is much needed as a means for meeting the severe shortage of providers in Alaska. It covers physicians, osteopaths, physical therapists, occupational therapists, registered nurses and physician assistants.

Finally, the HCC is in strong support of current efforts to preserve the MEDEX Northwest PA Training Program at Sitka, and the Alaska Center for Rural Health, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The Legislature will be requested to increase the University budget to continue both those programs.

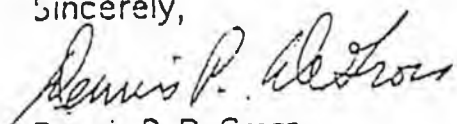
ALASKA ACADEMY OF PHYSICIANS ASSISTANTS • ALASKA PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION • ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
ALASKA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION • HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA • ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH BOARD • ALASKA NURSES ASSOCIATION • ALASKA DENTAL SOCIETY

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4107 Laurel Street    Anchorage, AK 99508    (907) 562-2662    Fax 561-2063

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on these health measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis P. DeGross".

Dennis P. DeGross  
President and Co-Chair

CC: HCC members

# *Alaska Public Health Association*

*Robert L. Cole, President  
P.O. Box 4 - 1825  
Anchorage, Alaska 99505*

---

*February 3, 1994*

*Mr. John Riley, President  
Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants  
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center  
1217 East 10th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501*

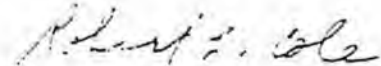
*Dear Mr. Riley:*

*The Alaska Public Health Association strongly supports two pieces of legislation now before the Alaska Legislature. These are HB341 and SB231, which allow Physician Assistants to bill for their services to the Medicaid program.*

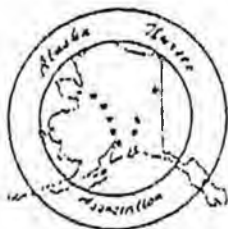
*Currently, rural communities employing solo PAs are greatly disadvantaged. Even those communities with federally designated Rural Clinics Medicaid will only reimburse on a flat fee basis, with the unfortunate result that the clinics are often not able to recover actual costs on cases which may consume inordinate amounts of the practitioner's time. The current system is especially tough on Medicaid-eligible patients who may have to travel long distances in order to use that resource for their care.*

*The Alaska Public Health Association welcomes this opportunity to comment on this legislation.*

*Sincerely,*



*Robert Cole  
President*



# ALASKA NURSES ASSOCIATION

237 E. 3rd Avenue #3 Anchorage, AK 99501 2523  
(907) 274-0827 FAX (907) 272-0292

February 1, 1994

Representative Jeannette James  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 501C  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative James:

This letter is written in support of HB 341, sponsored by yourself, and SB 231, sponsored by Senator Kertulla which permits Medicaid reimbursement for physician assistant (PA) services. Currently, physician assistants practicing outside a physician's office or a designated Rural Health Clinic do not qualify as Medicaid providers. This is a critical issue in rural communities where the midlevel practitioners are the only health care providers. Medicaid-eligible patients in these communities may have to travel long distances to obtain Medicaid services. The lack of reimbursement in these settings is a direct obstacle to health care for Medicaid recipients.

HB 341 and SB 231 also amend the statutes so that PA's are permitted to perform Workman's Compensation evaluations and requires private insurance companies to reimburse for PA services. The bills also enable physician assistants to issue handicapped parking permits.

Sincerely,

  
Jackie Pflaum  
Legislative Chair

May 1, 1994

The Honorable Cynthia Toohey  
House of Representatives  
State of Alaska  
Rm 104 Capito! Bldg  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

MAR 2 1994

RE: HOUSE BILL # 341 ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Dear Representative Toohey:

I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with you yesterday regarding House Bill #341  
concurring Physician Assistants Reimbursement by Medicaid.

You were most disturbed by the fiscal note attached to this bill of One Million Dollars. So  
was I, when I learned this! This fiscal note is inaccurate!! If passed, there are about 40  
Physician Assistants that this bill would affect. I think there are currently about 38 Nurse  
Practitioners in the State who are billing for Medicaid. This would be about the same  
number of Physician Assistants that this would affect. It makes me wonder if Physician  
Assistants upset someone in the Medicaid office to provide you with this inaccurate cost!!  
This is not correct or accurate information. We are only asking for the current rate of  
reimbursement that is being provided to Nurse Practitioners, not the physician rate of  
reimbursement.

To answer another one of your questions, Physician Assistants are licensed under the  
Alaska State Medical Board. Nurse Practitioners under the State Nursing Board.

Also for your information, this bill which was supported by Representative Joe Sitton and  
Representative Jeanette James, began at the grass roots level by concerned Fairbanks  
Physician Assistants who turned to our legislators for help. You spoke of support of a bill  
being worthy if it is represented by majority versus minority. I understand from our  
conversation in your political environment this means a great deal to a bill on whether or  
not gets recognized worthy of a hearing regardless of its content. This is a concept that I am  
sure Physician Assistants do not understand. I urge you to at least consider a hearing on  
this bill so it can begin to educate people about Physician Assistants and the role they  
perform in health care delivery.

Since Nurse Practitioners are already being issued Medicaid numbers I hope you agree that  
Physician Assistants who provide the same type of services should also be granted  
Medicaid numbers. As I told you, I am a registered Nurse who went to a combined  
Physician Assistant / Nurse Practitioner Program and I am living proof we are of equal  
status and we do the same type of services in the delivery of health care.

We have the support of the Alaska Nurses Association, and the Alaska State Medical  
Association and the Health Care Coalition just to name a few. Nurse Practitioners and  
Physician Assistants are paid the same salary in Alaska. Most clinics and hospitals will hire  
either one of us although the lack of issuing Medicaid numbers to Physician Assistants  
(PA) is one example of a barrier to PA employment.

\*\*\*END\*\*\*

Representative Cynthia Toohey  
March 1, 1994  
Page Two

I also spoke with Con Bunde, your Co-Ch. He was more optimistic in telling me that a hearing would be scheduled, and if I didn't hear from him in the next two weeks to contact him. I do know that we are running short of time with the journey this bill must take. If I can provide any more information or help in any other way do not hesitate to call me. Thank you once again for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Wendy E Hladick PA-C*

Wendy Hladick PA-C  
Vice President of the Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants  
Box 74  
Galena, AK 99741  
(907) 656-1891



# Alaska Center for Rural Health

Telephone (907) 474-6020

P.O. Box 81710 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99708-1710

Fax (907) 474-6739

HB 341

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Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants  
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1217 East 10th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Donna Galbreath, MD  
Treasurer  
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Gale Foode-Mighell  
Anchorage, AK

Dear Mr. Riley:

Anna Frank  
Fairbanks, AK

The Alaska Center for Rural Health wishes to express its strong support for HB341 and SB231. These companion bills will permit Physician Assistants to bill for their services to the Medicaid program.

Mark Gorman, MPH  
Sitka, AK

Bertha Jennings  
Kotzebue, AK

In many of our rural communities, solo PAs are working far from the support of physicians and other elements of Alaska's health system. Current policy prohibits those PAs from billing Medicaid for their services, thus working an unfortunate as well as unfair hardship for rural communities.

Thomas Nighswander, MD  
Anchorage, AK

Karen Perdue  
Fairbanks, AK

Granted, clinics designated by the federal government as Rural Clinics are allowed to bill for Medicaid reimbursement, but only on a flat fee basis. This means that clinics are often not able to obtain compensation for the amount of time that a PA might actually spend on a patient. The current system works a hardship on Medicaid eligible patients who may have to travel long distances in order to use the resource for their care.

Jackie Pflaum, RN  
Anchorage, AK

Tim Pollard, MD  
Seward, AK

Joseph Ryan, ACSW  
Anchorage, AK

Judith Snow-Rosander, RN  
McGrath, AK

Sincerely,

Flora Sweetsir  
Galena, AK

Daniel A. Johnson  
Center Director

Margaret Wood, PhD  
Dillingham, AK

Orie Williams  
Bethel, AK

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to you to ask for your support of HB#341, sponsored by Rep. Joe Siton and Rep. Jeannette James. There is a similar Senate bill, SB#231, which is sponsored by Sen. Jay Kertulla.

These bills are important to prevent any insurance company from denying payment of services provided by a Physician Assistant. Currently, there are several companies that will not pay for medical services if provided by a Physician Assistant. (Nurse Practitioners and Chiropractors already have obtained legislation to prevent insurance companies from denying payment.)

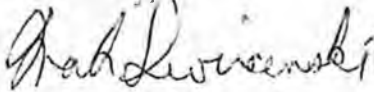
The other important part of these bills is establishment of Medicaid reimbursement. At this time, Medicaid patients, in some remote areas, are denied care due to the fact that Medicaid will not authorize PA's Medicaid numbers to bill for services. In turn, these patients either don't receive care or are flown to town (at cost to Medicaid) for care.

These bills were developed after identification of some of the barriers to health care through discussion between the Interior Legislatures (or their aides) and Physician Assistants from Fairbanks. There have been letters of support from many organizations which include the Health Care Coalition, Alaska Nurses Association, and the Alaska State Medical Association to name a few.

The Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants is actively working on these and other issues that will streamline the ability to provide care to all Alaskans.

Thank you for your attention. I hope that we all can continue to strive toward improving health care delivery in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Mark Swircenski, PA

MARK SWIRCENSKI  
20440 Raven Drive  
Eagle River AK 99577

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*Judy Swircenski*

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*Barbara Feldman*

JUDY SWIRCENSKI  
20440 RIVER DRIVE  
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577

March 15, 1994

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Alan Smith, M.D.

9721 SPANG Hill Dr  
Anchorage, AK 99507

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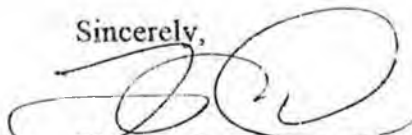
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Thomas Cross, P.A. - C

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Edward Krumanaker, P.A. - ?

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Sincerely,

  
Richard Clemons, P.A.-c

R. Clemons  
8827 KAK Island  
Eagle River, AK  
99577