

HB

38

<TARGET><BILL>HB 38</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
38</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDC27</COMM></TARGET>

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number _____
 Bill Version HB38
 () Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) HB038-UA-Sysbra-3-29-11
 Title University of Institutes of Law and Medicine
 Sponsor Representative Kawasaki
 Requester House Education
 Dept. Affected University of Alaska
 Appropriation University of Alaska
 Allocation Sysbra
 OMB Component Number 1296

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other (please identify)								
TOTAL	****	***	***	***	***	***	***	***

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Prepared by Michelle Rizk
 Division Statewide Budget, University of Alaska
 Approved by Michelle Rizk
 Statewide Budget, University of Alaska

Phone 450-8187
 Date/Time 3/29/11 1:00 PM
 Date 3/29/11 1:00 PM

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB38

Analysis

The fiscal impact of HB38 can not be accurately determined at this time. The cost of establishing a medical school and a law school in the State of Alaska are dependent upon the results of a demand study. It is not possible for the University to accurately estimate the cost of establishing these schools of higher education until this demand study is completed. The University of Alaska estimates a cost of up to \$1 million to conduct separate studies on each a medical school and a law school.

Included in the study may be factors such as:

Medical School

- Industry Demand
- Student Demand
- Community Resources (Availability of residencies)
- Facility Resources
- Staff and Faculty Resources
- Research opportunities
- Alternative models for medical school
- Accreditation Requirements

Law School

- Industry Demand
- Student Demand
- Community Resources
- Facility Resources
- Staff and Faculty Resources
- Research opportunities
- Accreditation Requirements (law library)

FY12-FY17 costs are listed as indeterminate pending results of the study.



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 9 Fairbanks

House Bill 38 Sponsor Statement

“An act authorizing the establishment of institutes of medicine and law at the University of Alaska.”

Alaska remains one of only six states that have no medical school and the only state without a law school. Alaska has a shortage of doctors which is likely to worsen as the state's population increases and ages. The cost of healthcare and legal services will only continue to rise. That is why it is time to invest in education and build the workforce Alaska will need for the next 20 years.

Law and medical students are required to go out of state for their education, therefore Alaska suffers even more. Most students tend to remain in the area in which they earn their degrees. Conversely, the 'Alaska Family Medicine Residency' has an extremely high rate of return in which 70% of the 55 graduates have remained in Alaska. By enabling the University of Alaska to build schools of medicine and law; it creates a better foundation for future doctors and lawyers to stay in Alaska for their higher education.

Alaska shouldn't deny opportunity to the best and brightest and export their talents, nor import professionals from the lower 48 who don't have a connection to the state. They deserve the chance to attend medical or law school, without the high cost of transferring out of state, possibly moving back, tuition, and without the limitations set on programs such as WWAMI which only allows 20 students per year into medical school. I urge your support encouraging the University of Alaska to train the next generation of Alaskan doctors and lawyers through House Bill 38.

In Juneau State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801

In Fairbanks 1292 Sadler Way Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Juneau (907) 465-3466 • Fax (907) 465-2937 • **Fairbanks** (907) 456-7423 • Fax (907) 451-9293

Email: Representative_Scott_Kawasaki@legis.state.ak.us



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 9 Fairbanks

HB 38: University Institutes of Law and Medicine

Sectional Analysis

- Section 1. Sec. 14.40.082: Establishes an Institute of Medicine at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. All powers and duties and functions for the medical school remain with the University of Alaska Board of Regents.
- Section 2. Sec. 14.40.083 Establishes an Institute of Law at the University of Alaska Anchorage. All powers and duties and functions for the law school remain with the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

In Juneau - State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801

In Fairbanks - 1292 Sadler Way Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Juneau (907) 465-3466 Fax (907) 465-2937 Fairbanks - (907) 456-7423 Fax (907) 451-9293

Email: Representative_Scott_Kawasaki@legis.state.ak.us

LAW OFFICES

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January 14, 2011

Hon. Scott Kawasaki
State Capitol, Rm 428
Juneau, AK, 99801-1182

RE: An Alaska Law School

Dear Scott,

Back in 1975, the Regents and the Legislative Council jointly contracted with me to do a study of whether Alaska should have a law school. The results of my study were published in a book-sized report entitled, *Legal Education for a Frontier Society*. A copy of that report should be available to you in one of the libraries at your disposal, presumably also in the archive of the Legislative Council itself. In preparing the report, I engaged with the American Bar Association, the Association of American Law Schools and the deans of several law schools, including UCLA, Puget Sound (now U of Seattle Law School), Stamford, Hawaii and Denver.

To summarize the report, I found that the establishment of a law school at that time would be marginally feasible at best and concluded that a greater need existed at the time for legal education for various careers closely connected with the law. An emphasis was given particularly to police and corrections education because the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration was then in top form and was handing out grants. The report enjoyed some kudos within national legal education circles.

As a result of this study, the University appointed me Director of Legal Studies for the University to implement the plan. This was done. I obtained an LEAA grant, hired five professors on soft money and, with a few faculty that were working at the time on community college Police Administration courses, established a Justice Center at UAA, focusing on research, and a state wide major in Justice. To my great satisfaction, the program has grown, prospered and become a regular part of U of A curricula. Ten years after I began, the University offered one of those retirement programs that was too good to turn down and I retired, returning to the practice of law, in which I am still engaged, if on a reduced schedule.

Hon. Scott Kawalski
January 14, 2011
Page two

From this account, you can see why I would have a special interest in your proposal and the strategies that might be taken to determine whether now, thirty-five years later, with the state's population grown and the economy of Alaska having increased several fold in size and complexity, the question should be reviewed in a professional manner. If it is found that a law school is now justified, (given an analysis of issues including the comparative demands for educational resources), then there are complex questions still ahead on how exactly, a law school program should be implemented, particularly to assure quality.

There have been some very preliminary, well-meaning efforts by others in the Alaska community to develop a law school outside of the context of the University of Alaska, the American Bar Association section on legal education, the Association of American Law Schools and their support and approval systems. I have spoken against these proposals to the Alaska Bar Board of Governors and others, fearing that a third rate law school is worse than none.

Needless to say, as I have sustained my own interest in an Alaska Law School, in a desultory way over the years (including a column in the Anchorage Daily News, where I am published monthly), I am regularly met with comments like, "Who needs any more lawyers" and "Don't existing law schools provide a steady supply?" There are answers to these questions and others, but they need careful development. I do not think that whether Alaska should have a law school is a totally closed question. I prefer to approach any complex question with an open mind. But it is certainly time that the issue was raised again and I am grateful to you for raising it.

I am uncertain of the direction and strategy that you are taking with your bill, but of course I wish you well. (It appears to be too early for me to obtain a copy locally.) I have discussed this issue with a few members of the Anchorage delegation and, of course, they all refer me to you. I offer my support in your endeavor.

It may be that the route you need to follow is to retrace the work done in Education for a Frontier Society. Obviously, it would take a somewhat larger appropriation today, and I am unsure whether you could obtain the support of the Regents, this time around, since my impression is that their attitude recently has been negative- one lawyer member being quite interested. I don't remember precisely, but I think I did the report for around \$100,000. Some survey work was done in support of the study (a finding that may interest you: the law school idea enjoyed wide support among the Alaskan public) as well as interviewing the Deans in question and personal contacts

Hon. Scott Kawalski
January 14, 2011
Page three

with ABA and AALS officials. This time probably more work would need to be included on the development of a preliminary law school plan. I would hope for an appropriation closer to \$250,000 today for an equivalent product. Of course, any study can be tailored to the money available. You get what you pay for.

At any rate, to repeat, thank you for raising the issue and taking a leadership role. I hope I may find some supporting role as you proceed.

Sincerely,


John Havelock



Alaska Medical Library
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

575 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-1611
Phone: 907-257-2100 • FAX: 907-257-2178
http://www.uaa.edu/aml

January 13, 2011

State Representative Scott Kawasaki
State Capitol Room 428
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Sir,

I read in the ADN January 1, 2011 edition that you plan to file legislation before the Alaska Legislature that would create two graduate programs, a laws school and a medical school. As you move forward with this goal, I thought you might find the following pieces of information useful.

- 1) UA's Master Academic Plan for Spring 2011 to Fall 2015 includes the statement that UAA will be the lead MAU for coordinating health academic programs. The WWAMI program was moved from UAF to UAA many years ago when the decision was made to focus health programs in Anchorage.
- 2) Health programs need strong library support. The Alaska Medical Library (AML) is part of the Consortium Library at UAA. As the Head of the Alaska Medical Library, I can attest that we have the strongest collection of both print and online resources to support the existing health programs in the state. I must also inform you that the existing budget allocation for the medical library is woefully inadequate to support a medical school. The existing medical school students access the University of Washington's medical library. If we were to separate from that university, our existing library would need a large infusion of ongoing funds to support the medical school.
- 3) Another reason the health programs live in Anchorage is the need to provide clinical training through rotations as hospitals and preceptors with healthcare providers. The one hospital in Fairbanks would not be able to provide this function adequately. Anchorage has the three largest hospitals in the state and they are already supporting nursing and medical students and medical residents ongoing training needs.

The article mentions that the research focus in Fairbanks is the reason to locate the medical school in that community. I believe the need in Alaska is for healthcare providers – family practice physicians in particular – not medical researchers. Anchorage is the only viable option as a location for a medical school in Alaska.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the services the Alaska Medical Library provides to healthcare providers throughout the state, please read the enclosed brochure or contact me by email at afktm@uaa.alaska.edu or phone at 786-1611.

Sincerely,

Professor Kathleen Murray
Head, Alaska Medical Library

Alicia Maryott

From:
Sent: Wednesday, December 29, 2010 1:53 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Proposal for Alaska Law School
Attachments: ASL Feasibility studyPDF.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Med/Law School

Rep. Kawasaki,

I was encouraged by the news yesterday that you want to introduce a plan to create a law school and medical school in Alaska. As you are well aware Alaska is the only state without a law school, and this puts us in a disadvantage. Every attorney practicing in Alaska learned their trade outside, and during that time did not learn the intricacies of our system. Earlier in the decade ISER put out a revised study that concluded Alaska did not need nor have the population base to sustain a law school. I don't believe this for a second, if a state like Wyoming with a smaller population can maintain a law school, than so can we. Two years ago, myself and group of colleagues put together a feasibility study for a law school, I have attached that study for you to look over.

If you have any questions, want to discuss what we have found, or need our help in any way please feel free to contact me anytime.

Regards,

Wally Hickel III
Vice President
Hickel Investment Company

☺
www.hickelinvestmentcompany.com

University of Alaska Review

January 2011

James L. Fisher, Ltd.

“It appears that the further programmatic development of UAA is inevitable and certainly in the long run this is a good thing for the state’s largest metropolitan region. However, not all paths to additional programmatic development for UAA are equally sound from the standpoint of the State of Alaska. (2) We recommend that the UA System: (A) respect the lessons of specialization in graduate work and research and identify a limited number of academic disciplines that will receive special resources and commitment, whether at UAF or UAA; (B) continue to focus UAF on its traditional strengths in the sciences and engineering; (C) focus advanced graduate work and research at UAA on the social and behavioral sciences and education and avoid replicating UAF’s primary areas of expertise; (D) locate any future law school—the state does not have one currently—at UAA; and, (E) support and expand WWAMI–type programs (WWAMI is a collaborative medical school among universities in five northwestern states (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) and the University of Washington School of Medicine) in expensive disciplines and courses of study.”

February 7th, 2011

Hello Mr. Scott Kawasaki:

My name is Alena Robson. I am an Alaskan-born resident who was raised to be proud of my home-state. Ever since graduating from high school, the lawyer path struck my fancy. In order to fulfill my dream, I had to enroll in a private school, out of state. The tuition costs are far more than I could handle but thanks to generous scholarships, finances are at a manageable level. I am going to finish up my undergraduate here in the next year. I currently hold a 3.8 GPA in all of my classes, volunteer with a refugee organization, work as a tutor in mathematics and find a *little* time to play sports. I recently returned from India where I taught German to Tibetan refugees who wanted to move out of India and into Europe in hopes of finding a better life. I am telling you all of these accomplishments, in order to help you understand that I am a dedicated person. I have been quite focused in undergraduate schooling, just as I will be fully dedicated to Law school when the time comes.

I have been following your proposal of establishing both a law school and medical school in Alaska. Now that it has become Bill 38, I will watch this bill as it navigates its way through the Alaska respective houses. I saw this proposal as a hope for me. I would very much want to attend that law school in Alaska, if it were to transpire. I am tired of paying thousands of dollars to a private school that my home state will not even benefit from. I want to be able to take the LSATS and mark those scores to be sent to UAA's law school. When I finish law school, I will be living in Alaska. I do not desire to move out of state again, only to move back in three years. People argue that it will ruin the monopoly that we have so feverishly built up, but they are not considering the amount of revenue a new law school and Medical school will create. Yes, I understand that it will cost millions of dollars to start, but I am an Alaskan tax payer, and paying a small bit more each year will be worth it for every graduating doctor or lawyer. Lawyers and engineers are by far the most popular profession in Alaska. UAA already has an engineering program, so why not support the other popular professions in Alaska?

I wrote to you, to state that you have my full support on this bill. In addition, I will be in the first class to apply to the new law school in Alaska. I love Alaska. It is my home. Please help keep it that way.

Sincerely,


Alena L. Robson

Alicia Maryott

From: Dan Kennedy |
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 3:47 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Janet Kennedy
Subject: Law School for UAA at MSC in Palmer.

Categories: Med/Law School

Dear Honorable Representative Scott Kawasaki:

Thank you for suggesting a law school for Alaska. You and I met a couple of years ago. We were both judging "We the People" competition at the Hotel Capt. Cook. Accordingly, I am interested in helping you accomplish the goal of a law school in Alaska.

Mat-Su

I respectfully wish to offer the campus of Mat-Su College. UAA's MSC has bond funds of over \$20 million for a possible new theater, which may be in direct conflict with a similar endeavor (please see more below). Therefore, what if the UA use the funds to build a law school rather than a performing arts theater?

As an adjunct faculty of MSC (I teach business law I & II - BA241 & BA242), I would kindly like to work with you on the concept of coordinating the law school at MSC with the Alaska Court system at Palmer. There could be excellent economies and education value with a working relationship with the Palmer Court. I frequent utilize attorneys, as guest lecturers, and field trips to the Palmer Court. Thanks, Dan

Background on the Possible MSC Conflict with Valley Performing Arts

Please know that Valley Performing Arts (VPA) has been selected for the Pre-Development grant from the Rasmuson Foundation to build a new community theatre in the Mat-Su Valley. VPA is currently in full due diligence planning for a new facility that will seat approximately 300 theatre enthusiasts. VPA has provided quality entertainment to the Southcentral Alaska for 35 years. Our origins as a non-profit community theatre began in Palmer in 1976 to in an old log church where our audiences were limited to 64 patrons. We have been in our current facility in Wasilla since 1996 and provided top notch theatre productions to over 11,000 patrons last season. This season continues to be a stellar year for VPA with sold out performances for "Pride and Prejudice", "King Island Christmas" and "Nunsense II". VPA is known for its quality productions and community spirit with hundreds of volunteers assisting it in its mission of presenting and promoting community participation in live theatre to enhance the cultural and intellectual spirit of the community.

The Board of Directors and staff of VPA have made a commitment to building a new theatre that can continue to meet the demands of the community and its patrons that come from all over Alaska including Anchorage, Fairbanks, Talkeetna and the Kenai Peninsula. VPA outgrew its current cramped facilities many years ago.

Janet is a past board president of VPA and served on the board for six years. Both Dan and Janet continue to serve as volunteers with VPA and serve on several committees. Building a new community theater has been a top goal of VPA for over five years. The effort has taken time. VPA is now in position to finally seriously study the opportunity with the Pre-Development efforts through the Foraker Group. Through sound financial planning, VPA has savings of almost \$200,000 for the project.

We simply wish to make you aware of VPA's private sector endeavors. VPA's operations have thrived almost exclusively through patron and community support. Less than ten percent of its resources come from any governmental support. Although additional avenues of support may be needed to build the infrastructure for a

quality community asset, be aware that the operations of such a facility has been and can be self sustaining in the future.

We appreciate your time in becoming aware of VPA's efforts to building a new community theatre in the Mat Su Valley. We look forward to communicating more with you in the future as our efforts progress.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Janet C. Kennedy, CPA and Dan F. Kennedy, CPA, MBA
Wasilla, Alaska email:

Sincerely, dfk
Dan F. Kennedy CPA/MBA - Swalling & Associates PC - certified public accountants

fax=
n

Any tax advice contained in the body or attachments of this e-mail was not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, by the recipient for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed under the Internal Revenue Code or applicable state or local tax law provisions. The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential and protected from disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer.

Alicia Maryott

From: Jasonmnorris
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 1:59 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: H.B. 38

Categories: Med/Law School

Rep. Kawasaki,

What is the state of H.B. 38? What all does the bill entail? I'm in favor of establishing schools of law and medicine at UA but am wondering about the particulars.

Thanks,
JN

Alicia Maryott

From: Currin, Toby |
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:31 AM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB38

Categories: Med/Law School

Mr. Scott Kawasaki

I am writing to you as an Alaskan who is currently training to become an osteopathic physician at Pacific Northwest University in Yakima, Wa. I applaud your movement to attain schools of higher education in Alaska (ie medical and law), there is a great need. Because there is such a great need I would like to encourage you to include the College of Osteopathic Medicine as a collaborating partner in filling these voids in the health care system. If everyone works together many problems can be solved. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Toby Currin
OMS-I
Pacific Northwest University of Biomedical Sciences

Alicia Maryott

From:
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2010 4:36 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki; scott.kawasaki@gmail.com
Subject: Medical and Law School

Categories: Med/Law School

Scott: I am a life long Alaskan and UAA grad. If you need help on a citizens work group or other type of initiative to further the Medical and Law School idea, just let me know as I would be happy to help.

I was in Wally Hickel's Public Admin Class and I specifically asked him if he favored a medical and law school in Alaska, he said yes. I also spoke to Charlie Cole who said no (as I would expect).

Any way, please let me know how I can help. I am 56 years old and lived without these local education opportunities...we owe the next generation these opportunities within the state and it will be the better for it!

Thanks again.

--Marshall Severson

Alicia Maryott

From: The Climber]
Sent: Wednesday, December 29, 2010 10:04 AM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Alaska Law School
Attachments: Sanitized CV.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Med/Law School

Dear Sir:

This is an outstanding idea. I have spent a fair amount of time in Alaska and have never understood why the state has not developed its own law school.

If the law school comes to pass, I would welcome an opportunity to participate as a founding faculty member. My expertise is in employment law, but I am prepared to expand to meet such a school's needs.

My sanitized CV are attached. I will identify myself if there is ever a serious interest.

Alicia Maryott

From: Amanda Hanson [mailto:amhanson@alaska.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2010 2:14 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Bill for Medical and Law School Programs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Med/Law School

Hello Mr. Kawasaki,

My name is Amanda Hanson, and I am planning on pursuing a Law career. However, when I discovered that I had to move out of state, I thought about not pursuing a law degree. The logistics are just too difficult. But if there isn't any other option, what am I (and other prospective Alaskan lawyers) supposed to do? I did not move up to Alaska just so I could move out, again. I heard on the radio today that you were proposing law and medical school programs for the UA system. IT'S ABOUT TIME! I support your proposed legislation 100% (and I'm a Republican!). If you need a resident of Alaska to testify, just let me know (I will travel to Juneau, if necessary). I am a working mom living in Fairbank who wants to better myself, my family, and my community, but the stress of moving out of state and then hoping to move back weighs heavy on my shoulders. Also, please don't listen to the naysayers. I know that if given the choice there would be plenty of students more than willing to stay in Alaska if the state offered a med and law program. If there are more people I can try to persuade to pass this legislation, please let me know. Send me a list and I will contact all of them. It is time for Alaska to compete with the rest of the United States! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Amanda Hanson

If you or someone from your office would like to chat with me about this, please do not hesitate to call. My contact information is:

Home:
Cell:
Work:

Doris Robbins

1281 Overhill Dr., Fairbanks, AK 99709-6753
(907) 374-0597
drobbins@gci.net

March 31, 2011

(H) Education Standing Committee

Chair: Representative Dick

Vice-Chair: Representative Pruitt

Members:

Representative: Feige

Representative: Seaton

Representative: P. Wilson

Representative: Cissna

Representative: Kawasaki

Representatives,

Support for HB 38: University Institutes of Law and Medicine

Please accept this letter of support as I am unable to get to an LIO.

I have been aware of the need for more physicians and especially more Alaska grown physicians for years. In the 80's I moved to Juneau, after making Alaska my home in 1965. Moving to Juneau I had a problem finding a dedicated physician but got in to one who had an opening.

Eventually, after winding up in the ER, I sought out a different doctor and had to have a referral from a specialist to get in to see a competent doctor because, even then, practices were so full that the only doctors who had openings were the ones who were not given glowing reports by their patients.

Eventually, I learned how to tell if a doctor was just in Alaska long enough to get the bonus money from higher pay rates, or really wanted to practice in Alaska. I would look for things like navigation charts or telling pictures and artifacts and then talk about Alaska a little when I went in for the first visit. It did not take long to learn how the chips fell.

Right now it is difficult for our students living here and, want to remain, to train as a physician because they have to compete with space in outside programs. In addition, with the high cost of medical education it is so much better to be able to start out in your state school where there is no additional tuition costs and where you may be able to continue to live at home as you train.

Aside from that, statistics show that doctors practice where they train and have developed relationships in the community. Few return home to try to make new connections from scratch. We know that starting your own medical practice is an expensive proposition and you have a big bill to pay back for such an expensive education.

Healthcare is a big business in Alaska and growing all the time. We must find a way to grow our own doctors. A medical school will also attract other supporting people and jobs to Alaska. The biggest benefit will be, of course, finding a physician locally who is not here because of a big bonus fee that a hospital had to pay to get them. While most physicians care about their patients, home grown ones will be really grounded.

I don't know much about the Law and the availability of lawyers. I suspect they are scarce but someone else will have to speak to that.

It is time we had a medical school and all that it brings by way of added investment and resources in the community beyond the obvious access to medical care. As a final plea, I hope you understand that most people I know in Fairbanks feel fortunate to just have access to a Physician's Assistant or a Nurse Practitioner. We have a chronic lack of providers. I have spoken to doctors who lament at how they have to work down their waiting list of Medicare patients as space becomes available for them to afford to take another one on. More physicians will spread the load.

Thank you for supporting this legislation!

Doris Robbins

Alicia Maryott

From: Scott Eickholt [seickholt@local942.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 8:23 AM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB 38

Categories: Med/Law School

Dear Representative Kawasaki, I would like to take a minute to share with you my support for HB 38. I strongly believe if Alaska wants to become a State that can attract our own brilliant minds and encourage them to higher education, then, stay here in our beloved State to provide services we so desperately need; we as Alaskans have a responsibility to provide the means necessary to do so.

Alaskans always boast that we are different and separate in our own way from the Lower 48. That Alaska is unique and unlike any other place in the U.S. We enjoy what is becoming a World renown science institution, new facilities are being built as we speak to support the growing needs of the University of Alaska.

With Alaskans need for self reliance, I feel these facilities would only benefit Alaska and Alaskans alike. An invaluable return would be immediate upon the graduation of the first class, as you cannot put a price on education. These facilities would put the punctuation mark at the end of -The University of Alaska[!]- Law and Medicine are some of the oldest higher education known, there is no reason we as Alaskans shouldn't have the opportunity for these fields of learning.

You have the full support of myself and my family for seeking the funding and construction of these desperately needed facilities. If we are going to make Alaska competitive, let's start in our education process.

My best regards,
Scott C. Eickholt

304 Slater Dr.
Fairbanks Alaska 99701

Alicia Maryott

From: severso@cs.com
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2010 4:36 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki; scott.kawasaki@gmail.com
Subject: Medical and Law School

Categories: Med/Law School

Scott: I am a life long Alaskan and UAA grad. If you need help on a citizens work group or other type of initiative to further the Medical and Law School idea, just let me know as I would be happy to help.

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Any way, please let me know how I can help. I am 56 years old and lived without these local education opportunities...we owe the next generation these opportunities within the state and it will be the better for it!

Thanks again.

--Marshall Severson
907-276-3274

Alicia Maryott

From: Currin, Toby [tcurrin@pnwu.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:31 AM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB38

Categories: Med/Law School

Mr. Scott Kawasaki

I am writing to you as an Alaskan who is currently training to become an osteopathic physician at Pacific Northwest University in Yakima, Wa. I applaud your movement to attain schools of higher education in Alaska (ie medical and law), there is a great need. Because there is such a great need I would like to encourage you to include the College of Osteopathic Medicine as a collaborating partner in filling these voids in the health care system. If everyone works together many problems can be solved. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Toby Currin
OMS-I
Pacific Northwest University of Biomedical Sciences

Date: March 31, 2011

To: Governor Sean Parnell, Congressman Don Young, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Mark Begich, Representative Scott Kawasaki, and members of the Alaska Legislature

From: Anchorage Residents

Re: House Bill 38 "Alaska Institutes of Medicine and Law"

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing in support of Representative Kawasaki's House Bill 38, "Alaska Institutes of Medicine and Law." As practicing attorneys and future lawyers we feel the need for Alaska to have an accredited law school. Currently, Alaskan residents wishing to practice law are forced to incur unnecessary student-loan debt, leave their jobs, move out of state and leave their families for law school. By having a local law school all of these obstacles would be removed.

We agree with Rep. Kawasaki's position that an Alaskan institute of law would benefit our great state by keeping future students in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Name/Title:

Address:

Phone

Name/Title:	Address:	Phone Number:
<i>Charles A. Lane</i>	<i>2740 SCARBOROUGH Anchorage AK 99504</i>	<i>(907) 333-9376</i>
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Can Alaska grow doctors, lawyers?

SCHOOLS: Legislator hopes colleagues OK at least one.

By SEAN COCKERHAM
scockerham@adn.com

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Last Modified: February 6th, 2011 10:28 PM

Alaska is short on doctors and has legal issues faced by no other state. So why is it the only state that doesn't have a law school and just one of five states without its own medical school?



Jan. 18 - April 17

It's something Alaskans have talked about for decades. But the idea of starting the schools has never gone far, with skeptics objecting to the costs and questioning whether they're really needed.

The latest proposal is from Rep. Scott Kawasaki. His House Bill 38 is aimed at starting a medical school at the University of Alaska's Fairbanks campus and a law school at the Anchorage campus.

It's not getting much support in the Legislature. Kawasaki said he plans to try a new tack. If legislators don't want both a medical school and a law school, maybe they would support one or the other.

"If we get to divide the question perhaps, and talk separately about a law school program and a medical school program, we'll start to get some traction with legislators here," the Fairbanks Democrat said.

House Finance co-chairman Bill Stoltze said he thinks Kawasaki is just looking for headlines.

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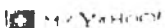
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"I don't think that there is any serious consideration," Stoltze said.

"We're struggling to make sure we have nursing programs, struggling to do things like the Medicare clinic in Anchorage. We're just trying to keep our heads above water."

Stoltze, a Republican from Chugiak, said other states have a lot of things Alaska might want.

"Why don't we have our own amusement park up here so Alaskans don't have to (go Outside)? It's probably just about as serious as his measure," Stoltze said.

IT'S NOT GOING AWAY

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But even if the bill goes nowhere, the issue will be back. The law school idea, especially, has proponents, including a member of the University of Alaska board of regents. They say it would be cheaper than a medical school and Alaska law students now have no choice other than to leave home and go into big debt for out-of-state tuition or private school in the Lower 48.

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Getting the Legislature to support an Alaska law school would be a challenge, though.

"I don't think there are a lot of legislators who personally think we want more lawyers in this state," Kawasaki said.

Kawasaki said he's heard more legislative interest in a medical school. But then it becomes a cost issue. Kawasaki figured it would cost about \$60 million for the facilities and \$40 million for the teaching staff to start with 200 students.

"We know that we've got an issue; we know we need more physicians," Kawasaki said. "And the only way to address that is either by adding more incentives, making Alaska a more attractive place to practice, or growing our own here. I think that ultimately is the way we need to go."

Rep. David Guttenberg, another Democratic legislator from Fairbanks, said he once considered putting in a bill to start a medical school. But that was before he started looking into it.

"When I talk to doctors and other people about doing it, they bring me to the reality of the situation," Guttenberg said. "It's a very expensive school. We don't have the economy of scale and the number of teaching doctors and stuff like that."

Guttenberg said he's glad Kawasaki is keeping the idea of a medical school alive for the future, though.

The Alaska State Medical Association doesn't have a position on starting a medical school in the state. Director Jim Jordan said there has to be a study of factors like demand, availability of residencies and research opportunities. He's not aware of any real analysis being done before.

"There needs to be a good, hard look at it to determine whether an Alaska-based medical school would be better than what we currently have," Jordan said.

The state now subsidizes 20 Alaska medical students a year through the University of Washington School of Medicine. The program is called WWAMI for the five states it represents - Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.

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Those students can complete the first year of the program at the University of Alaska Anchorage. They go to the University of Washington the second year and can come back to Alaska for rotations the third and fourth years.

UNIVERSITY NOT ON BOARD

But nothing like WWAMI is available for Alaska law students. A member of the University of Alaska board of regents, Kirk Wickersham, has tried to convince his colleagues the state needs a law school.

Wickersham, a Yale law school graduate, will also make the case Monday at a presentation at the University of Alaska Anchorage. "Law is different from one state to another, especially Alaska ... Our constitution, ANCSA, ANILCA. Our foundational laws are unique," he said.

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The Institute of Social and Economic Research at UAA concluded in a 2004 report that a law school wasn't feasible in the state. ISER said it would take 250 students to support a law school and that not enough Alaskans would attend.

ISER based its conclusion on the number of Alaskans who took the Law School Admission Test each year. Wickersham said the report was flawed. Many Alaskans don't bother to take the LSAT because they have no way to leave Alaska for law school, he said.

"My son-in-law would go to law school if he could do it here," Wickersham said. "But he didn't take the LSAT because he knows he can't go to school here. He has a job, he has a family. He can't just quit and go off to law school."

Wyoming, the Dakotas and Montana have viable law schools, he said. Alaska has a wealthier and better educated population than those states, as well as a bigger urban center in Anchorage, he said. He argues jobs are available and they can either go to Alaskans or to imports from the Lower 48.

Juneau Democratic Rep. Beth Kerttula, an attorney, supports the creation of an Alaska law school. Kerttula said rural Alaskans in particular should have a chance to go to law school and it would create a community of lawyers grounded in Alaska law.

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Skeptics point to the grim job market for law school graduates nationally, with stories of lawyers dragged down by heavy debt and struggling to find work. There's also a certain attitude about lawyers.

"We always need doctors; I'm not sure about lawyers," said House Speaker Mike Chenault.

Reports exist of law schools often acting as cash cows for their universities, subsidizing other programs. ISER figured in its 2004 report an Alaska law school could cost \$45 million, with annual operating costs of \$6 million. The researcher supposed tuition might cover a third of annual costs.

The idea of starting either a law or a medical school in Alaska will have a hard time becoming a reality if the university doesn't begin pushing it. Wickersham took pains to say he's advocating for an Alaska law school on his own -- not speaking as a regent or for the University of Alaska.

University spokeswoman Kate Ripley said Kawasaki's proposal is being looked at:

"(We're) evaluating work force need, numbers of expected students, costs, how would it stack up against other existing priorities for students and programs."

Starting a medical school or a law school is clearly not a priority for the Board of Regents.

The board hasn't taken a position on Kawasaki's proposal.

"I personally think it's a great idea but we just don't have the money," said Fuller Cowell, board chair.

Find Sean Cockerham online at adn.com/contact/scockerham or call him at 257-4344.

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AKMinded

It's a very complex problem. Alaska absolutely needs more qualified doctors - the elderly specialties of cardio-vascular, pulmonary/respiratory, neurological, rheumatology, etc are in high demand with low available resources. For anyone who's interested in the "business" of medicine, check out this New Yorker article. It illuminates the situation well.
<http://www.newyorker.com/repor...>

02/10/2011 10:39 AM

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mrmuldrow

The vast majority of doctors are NOT "making millions of dollars a year." This is one of the most ignorant yet persistent myths circulating in our society today. Doctors spend a decade in training after college, during which time they accrue hundreds of thousands in debt while working the equivalent of 2+ full-time jobs and postponing marriage, child-bearing, home-owning, etc. After that, let's say that some hypothetical and rather well-compensated doctor



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Do We Need More Physicians or Efficient Health Care?

In the 1990s, workforce analysts were predicting a physician surplus. Today, the pendulum has swung in the other direction, with the AAMC calling for a 30 percent increase in medical student enrollment.

Baby-boomer physicians are nearing retirement at the same time the patient population is growing, aging, and demanding more specialized services, asserts Edward Salsberg of the AAMC Center for Workforce Studies. In addition, many young physicians are choosing to work fewer hours -- especially true of the growing number of women in medicine.

Nonetheless, some still question the need for a dramatic increase. "There's a lot of shroud waving and fear mongering that's not based on evidence and will lead us on a costly expansion," said David C. Goodman, MD, of Dartmouth Medical ("A Growth Spurt for Medical Schools," Chronicle of Higher Education, Jan. 12). "Rather than spending more resources on training more physicians, we should be focusing on building more efficient delivery systems."

Added author Daniel S. Greenberg, a self-professed "longtime skeptic of the need for more physicians," much of the need can be met by expanding the pool of advanced health care workers, like physician assistants or nurse practitioners. "We don't need to have people trained as brain surgeons taking splinters out of people's feet," he told the Chronicle.

Even so, the nonphysician pool needs to grow significantly. A recent roundtable discussion hosted by the Association of Academic Health Centers found that workforce shortages are a key challenge across all health professions, not just medicine.

In the February issue of the GME e-Letter, we asked for feedback on this issue. Below are the responses we received from readers, with identifying information removed.

Do you have any answer to why so often the "experts" are dead wrong? I think it is because they want to be known and make an impact so they say things that are interesting and attention-getting with little veracity or data to back up their positions. Look at all the experts that advised consolidation of medical centers like UCSF and Stanford. This trend is now over because virtually every merger attempt was a disaster.

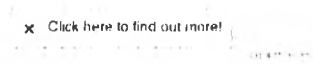
Remember the days when the experts said we need to generate more doctors so there would be more competition and lower costs? They gave medical schools additional funds to take more medical students. What happened? We generated many more doctors, but this just caused more money consumed by health care in our society rather than driving down costs.

I guess the other question is why do we (ie, leaders in academic medicine) ever listen to these so-called experts when they prove to be dead wrong so often. Consider the ACGME's six general competencies. They were instituted at huge expense to all programs without any showing of evidence that they would result in better practice. A far more important, and more easily measurable, goal would be to ensure that all graduates are competent to practice. The current system is a failure in that regard.

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I could make the same point about a lot of other regulatory bodies. So often they generate a regulation or mandatory requirement that is expensive without data to show that they will be helpful. How about a small local pilot project first to show that these things make a positive difference? Why does organized medicine go out of its way to shoot itself in the foot and add extra costs that in the end serve to jack up the cost of medical care to the public?

I see no shortage if physicians were freed from the bureaucratic morass that "providers" have put us in, whose only purpose is to curtail the delivery of care for their own financial gain. Health care is not a commodity. If we treat it as such, it'll go the way our inner-city educational system has gone.

Clearly we need more health care providers to address patients' growing needs however, the key word is "providers." Efficient and effective treatment for basic health care issues can be provided by nonphysicians, such as advanced nurse practitioners or physician assistants. Importing physicians from other countries or training more physicians is not necessary when there are many US citizens who could fill our health care needs. I agree with Daniel S. Greenberg.

Kaiser, VA, and other large health systems use the "provider" model of care. Clearly, it works. We should train more nonphysicians as this would take less training time and dollars.

I cannot give you numbers and statistics to support my thoughts, but I can offer years of experience in private practice, public health settings, medical administration, and academic work. And based on that, I feel just the opposite of Daniel Greenberg--I am more concerned about those trained to take out splinters being pressed into brain surgery.

This is obviously an exaggeration, just as his comment is, but I have seen good, nonphysician clinicians get pushed into doing more than their comfort zone allows, and since they are helpful people by nature, they try to do what they're asked. It can end in poor care at best, and at worst, dangerous care.

The medical delivery system of today seems more impressed by how much money rather than how many lives it can save. I have worked with many excellent physician assistants and advanced practice nurses in my 30+ years of practice, but they and I always felt better that I was around to advise and assist when needed.

All professions that require time to train go through cycles in their available numbers--it has happened with teachers and nurses, and there is no reason to suppose that the physician supply would be immune to such cycles. It is clear that we need more physician availability in small, rural communities, and that is a matter of distribution rather than simply supply. But the only ways to accomplish a redistribution within our freedom-loving, capitalistic system are incentives to locate in such areas or market forces driven by additional numbers.

I agree with your points--governors need to be educated about the economic impact of physician shortages; GME needs more support if the educational system as a whole is to continue to turn out physicians in any numbers who are well trained, let alone in larger numbers; and medical education centers need more faculty members to accomplish their missions of education, research, and clinical service.

Replacing physicians with nurse practitioners and physician assistants is one approach to addressing the shortage of physicians, but begs the question of what type of health care system we want.

With regard to Daniel Greenberg's profession of higher education, I am sure we could replace most college professors with lower-cost graduate students if we wanted to, but I doubt he would argue that that would improve the quality of a college education.

Replacing more highly educated professionals with paraprofessionals is not a formula for quality and it may reduce actual costs. Experience shows that we do not do well, and that is not surprising, and

...

taken the position that the mismatch between advanced training versus service needs required primary attention. There is already widespread use of physician assistants and nurse practitioners, and that contribution to health care delivery will continue to grow. But I don't see evidence for a physician surplus now any more than 10 years ago, and in any event physician supply should at least track (more or less) the growth in the US population.

Our analysis focused on the different controls that patients, physicians, employers, insurers, and government exerted on the availability and payment for medical services. I don't think that supply can be separated from quality, and we advocated developing surrogate measures of quality such as time with patients and wait time. Since time with patients is a function of compensation schemes, this too must enter into national planning for physician training both at the undergraduate and specialization level. I see a danger in developing a national agenda that may look simplistically at supply and demand, without being able to address quality.

*Michael Gochfeld, Joanna Burger and Bernard Goldstein
Medical Care as a Commons, pp. 253-272 in "Protecting the Commons" (Island Press, Washington DC: 2001)

Always neglected in such discussions is the issue of the number of international medical graduates (IMGs) practicing in the US.

A principal reason that one may argue we have a sufficient number of physicians is because more than half of all physicians licensed in this country are educated in foreign countries. Whole regions of the US have a majority of physicians in practice who are not graduates of US medical schools (eg, the central valley/Fresno area of California).

Does the US want to deprive so many of its citizens the opportunity to go to medical school in order to provide medical positions for graduates from foreign countries that often that place no limits, as the US does, on the number of medical school positions? Admission to a US medical school is a very rigorous process. Not only does this severely limit the number of US-educated physicians practicing in the US, but may also (as an unintended consequence) narrow the pool of applicants, which in turn may be adversely affecting the quality and character of the graduates.

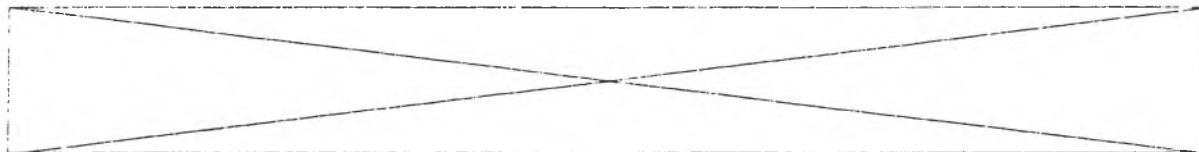
Becoming a medical doctor remains a highly respected occupation in the US. Do we wish to continue to deny so many US citizens the opportunity to become medical doctors, thereby creating a large need filled by IMGs?

The time has come to address the most important implication of the ever-increasing numbers of IMGs providing care in this country. The problem is not the IMGs themselves. It is denying US citizens the opportunity to compete for these highly valued positions in our society.

Let the competition begin.

Although I agree that more PAs and NPs will meet many health care needs, Mr. Greenberg should not exaggerate his point, as it makes his argument less valid. "Neurosurgeons have no interest in removing splinters from anywhere except the central/peripheral nervous system."

[x Click here to find out more!](#)



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
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APRIL 4, 2008, 4:07 PM ET

What Does It Cost to Start a Medical School, Anyway?



The U.S. went more than 30 years without a new med school (not counting osteopathic schools, which grant the D.O. degree). But in the last few years, a dozen or so institutions have set out to create new schools to mint MDs.

Just last week, Hofstra University and North Shore-LIJ Health System on Long Island, east of New York City, picked a founding dean for their med school, with the hope of having the first class enter in 2011.

The Health Blog spoke with Lawrence G. Smith, dean of the school-to-be, to find out how (and why) to start a medical school. Before he went to North Shore-LIJ a few years back, Smith was dean of medical education at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Here are the

highlights of our conversation.

Why all these new medical schools?

There are approx 17,000 [M.D.] graduates per year and 25,000 first-year residency positions in this country. That gap has been closed by a combination of foreign-trained foreign doctors, osteopathic graduates and foreign-trained U.S. citizens.

The majority of U.S. kids studying abroad are in these unregulated, for-profit medical schools. Most of these kids are more than qualified to become physicians. But they're not studying in really well established, top-flight schools.

What's going to set your school apart?

In the old way of teaching the non-clinical activities in medical school, there were many departments. There were departments of physiology, anatomy, pharmacology and on and on. Those departments came into being 100 years ago because that was the structure of research at the time. That is no longer the case, yet the tenacious ownership of pieces of the curriculum [by the old departments] has prevented schools from presenting information in a more logical format.

We are not going to create any of those departments. I want to link things so if we're learning anatomy and physiology of the heart, we let students get into the operating room and look at open heart surgery to see not the perfect world of the textbook but the real world.

How much does it cost to start a medical school?

There are two real costs to the startup of a medical school. One is the cost of staff and faculty prior to collecting tuition from students. That's in the \$15-\$20 million range.

And then you have to build a medical education center and a living facility. That's the heart and soul of the medical school. Capitalizing both of the buildings together is going to be between \$50 and \$100 million. Nobody's going to come up with money for that. That's going to be a debt-service issue

Are you looking to sell the med school's naming rights to a big donor?

What's your middle initial?

"Health Blog School of Medicine" does have a nice ring to it.

Long term, we have to create an endowment for the medical school to have the freedom to be really creative. One way to start the endowment is to have somebody have the medical school named for them. But there are other strategies that may get the endowment rolling at a lower price than selling the name forever.

But we'd love to sell the name if we could.

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