



ALASKA STATE HOSPITAL &
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

March 1, 2022

Representative Spohnholz
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801
Representative.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov

RE: ASHNHA Supports HB 265 - Health Care Services by Telehealth

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) represents more than 65 hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, and other health care partners distributed across Alaska's vast expanse of over half a million square miles, from PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center in Southeast Alaska to Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital in Utqiagvik, north of the Arctic Circle. For over 60 years, ASHNHA members have worked together to improve health care in Alaska.

ASHNHA supports HB 265 Health Care Services by Telehealth. Throughout the pandemic, telehealth flexibilities have been critical to ensuring all Alaskans are able to receive care when they need it most. To continue this momentum, the legislative changes under HB 265 are necessary.

Specifically, HB 265 solidifies many of the flexibilities concerning modalities that can be used for telehealth, services that can be rendered through telehealth, and provider types who can participate in telehealth. Simply put, this legislation is an important step for patient care in Alaska that will benefit Alaskans and their ability to access care.

ASHNHA is appreciative for the opportunity to work with your office and other stakeholders to provide feedback on this legislation, and we urge the swift passage of HB 265. Thank you for your consideration and your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO