

March 12, 2026

House Finance Committee
State Capitol Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801
House.Finance@akleg.gov

RE: AHHA Supports House Bill 362 – Respiratory Care Licensure

Dear House Finance Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

For over 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and a growing number of healthcare partners across the continuum of care. AHHA members play an invaluable role, both as community providers and essential employers, in cities, towns, and villages across Alaska.

AHHA supports House Bill 362 and the professional licensure of respiratory therapists in Alaska. Passing this legislation will align Alaska with the rest of the country and provide a consistent standard for care, increase patient safety, and lead to greater service quality.

As employers and partners of respiratory therapists throughout Alaska, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of this service and the therapists. Implementing licensing standards that are consistent with the rest of the country is a practical step for supporting our respiratory therapists and prioritizing access to quality, sustainable healthcare for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO