

May 30, 2024

Stefanie Davis
Regulations Specialist
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811
RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov

RE: Proposed Changes to Regulation for Physician Licensing

To Whom It May Concern:

For 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.

It is well documented that Alaska's healthcare system is severely challenged by workforce shortages, recruitment barriers, and other limitations to access. AHHA supports all efforts that seek to simplify and expedite the licensure process for healthcare professionals.

AHHA strongly supports the proposed changes to regulation for physician licensing. The proposed changes will specifically remove the requirements for original letters of verification of hospital privileges, federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) clearances, and American Medical Association (AMA) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Physician Profiles for both initial licensure and renewals. Consistent with states across the country, the Board is modernizing Alaska's regulations by replacing these requirements with detailed disclosures, statements, and attestations.

We appreciate the diligent work performed by the Alaska State Medical Board, and its collaboration with stakeholders like us. The proposed changes better align Alaska's licensing process with best practices used in other states, and we believe the proposed changes are a positive step forward for decreasing the amount of time it takes to compile a complete application, which should help speed up the process for licensing physicians.



Thank you again for your work on these regulations, and your efforts to modernize and streamline the licensure process so physicians can safely and appropriately get to work providing care to Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Kosin'.

Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO