ALASKA
HOSPITAL &
HEALTHCARE
ASSOCIATION

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman
Chair, Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Juneau, AK 99801
Senator.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov
Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

Re: AHHA Supports SB 225

Dear Senator Bjorkman,

For 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and other 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

We write to express our support for SB 225 and its approach to setting fees for occupational licenses. SB 225 essentially excludes the costs from disciplinary investigations from the setting of license fees, and instead, covers the cost of investigations through other revenue sources. This is expected to stabilize volatile license fees and keep license fees competitive.

Addressing licensing fees in this manner is another positive step to addressing critical workforce shortages throughout our state. In the healthcare sector, we need to recruit and hire approximately 8,000 new healthcare workers per year, including nearly 1,400 nurses, to keep up with demand. Many of these individuals require licenses in Alaska, and as we work to address the existing shortages and robust job growth projections in healthcare over the coming years, we need to do everything to make Alaska an attractive home for young Alaskans to start careers and recruits from the lower 48 to join our workforce. Making licensing fees stable and reasonable is another welcome tool in this effort.

We appreciate your time and respectfully request your support in advancing this legislation. Thank you for your continued partnership in working to solve Alaska's healthcare challenges.

Sincerely,

Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO