

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

1500 W. Benson Boulevard
Anchorage AK 99503
907-269-0181
800-892-4843



Alaska State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801
907-465-4843
800-892-4843

North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate District N

Senate Bill 44
Telehealth: Physician Assistant; Drugs

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 44 allows physician assistants the authority to practice using telehealth to serve their patients, just as do physicians.

It has come to our attention that Senate Bill 74, the Medicaid Reform bill passed in 2016, inadvertently left out the physician assistants under the telehealth section. I am introducing SB 44 in an effort to rectify that unintentional omission.

Under SB 44, the physician assistant would be subject to the same statutory oversight as physicians in regard to the practice of telemedicine, as well as the same disciplinary sanctions when appropriate.

In Alaska's efforts to increase access to affordable health care, it only makes sense that PAs be given the authority to treat their patients via telehealth when meeting the regulatory requirements set by Alaska statutes. That was the intention of the Medicaid Reform bill, and SB 44 remedies their omission.