



**Petersburg**  
MEDICAL CENTER

PO Box 589  
103 Fram Street  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
907-772-4291  
[www.pmcak.org](http://www.pmcak.org)

June 15, 2026

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski,

On behalf of Petersburg Medical Center (PMC) and the Petersburg community, I would like to thank you for taking the time to visit our new Workforce, Education, and Resource Center (WERC) and the site of our future medical campus. Your continued support of rural healthcare and your willingness to see firsthand both our accomplishments and our challenges are greatly appreciated. I would also like to follow up with you regarding two regulatory issues currently facing PMC – telehealth access for providers temporarily residing outside the U.S. and long-term care bed flexibility.

We were honored to share the progress made through the WERC, including the new MRI service line, expanded training and education space, public health services, and community wellness programs. Without your initial funding we would not have a new home for these services. I would also like to thank you for your continued support of federal appropriations that have helped advance our facility replacement efforts.

During your visit, I mentioned two regulatory issues that continue to create challenges for rural healthcare delivery. Current telehealth federal regulations create a barrier to utilizing our Alaska-licensed and credentialed PMC providers who may be temporarily residing outside the United States. While these providers remain licensed in Alaska, current restrictions limit our ability to leverage this workforce flexibility. We would appreciate any opportunity to explore whether these regulations could be modernized while maintaining appropriate quality and oversight standards.

The second issue involves long-term care bed flexibility. Rural communities often struggle to align licensed bed categories with the actual care needs of patients. Regulatory changes that allow much greater flexibility between Medicare's skilled nursing, 'swing bed' programs, to Alaska's State Medicaid Assisted Living and Long term Care program are much needed. Such flexibility would help rural facilities greatly utilize limited bed capacity in inpatient and long term care and ensuring patients receive care in the most appropriate setting.

Thank you again for your visit, your leadership, and your continued commitment to Alaska's rural communities. We greatly value our partnership and look forward to working with you on these and other healthcare issues important to Petersburg and rural Alaska.

Sincerely,



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**Philip Hofstetter, Au.D**

**CEO**

Phone: 907-772-5724

Email: [Phofstetter@pmc-health.org](mailto:Phofstetter@pmc-health.org)

P.O. Box 589, Petersburg, AK 99833

[www.pmcak.org](http://www.pmcak.org)

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